The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1886.

The Week.

THE strike of the Knights of Labor in the Southwest has now reached the point to which it has been plainly running from the start—an armed conflict with the governments of three, perhaps five, States. Great satisfaction is proclaimed by the so-called Executive Committees that they are again "united," and that Mr. Powderly's order to return to work has been rescinded. No right-thinking person can feel satisfaction while contemplating public tumult and probable bloodshed, but if there is a wide-spread conspiracy in the United States against law and order, no time can be considered too early for confronting it. By conspiracy we mean a secret society whose object is to prevent anybody but the conspirators from earning a living; not because they object to any man's earning a living outside of the employments they are engaged in, but because they are unable to coerce employers if the unemployed are allowed to work when *they* see fit to strike. The situation in the Southwest has reached this pass, that nobody is allowed to represent Labor except those who refuse to work or allow anybody else to work. When a man has attained the full dignity of Labor, he must be prepared to shoot down any man more distressed and hungry than himself who applies for a situation that *he* has voluntarily given up. It happens in this particular case that the strikers had no reason that they were willing to avow for throwing up their situations. This, however, was only an incident growing out of the assumption that the right to labor belongs exclusively to the Knights of Labor, and that all persons who dispute this pretension must be shot down.

This has been the attitude of the strikers, under the lead of Irons, from the beginning. Mr. Powderly saw that it would end by bringing the Knights into armed collision with the State authorities, as at last it has in Texas, Kansas, and Arkansas, and will soon in Missouri and Illinois. The result of such a conflict cannot be doubtful. Some blood may be spilled, some houses may be burned, some dynamite may be exploded, but the end will be the crushing of the rebellion, and this end cannot be long delayed. The Governors of the several States have been very slow in performing their duty. They have been cowed by the supposed political power of the Knights. They have waited till the sufferings of the community have shifted the balance of political power upon the other side. It is probably true that public opinion in Texas was at first opposed to any harsh measures and in favor of persuasion and conciliation. While the striking Knights are only a handful in the whole State, the power which belongs to organization and secrecy had created a superstition in men's minds, and for a moment paralyzed the reasoning powers of the community, which never fairly awoke until it was found that a new government under the leadership of Irons had usurped the functions of the one elected by the people. Even then it was necessary that some profoundly impressive act should be committed, like the shooting of a deputy sheriff, to bring people to their senses, and to call into activity the forces which society has provided for just such emergencies.

The number of unemployed laborers in the country possessing more or less skill is always sufficient to man a railway, or a congeries of railways like the Gould Southwestern system, after a short time, if not prevented by violence from accepting the vacant places. The number of men who "went out" at the order of the Knights of Labor organization was only a trifle above five thousand. Mr. Martin Irons "claimed" a much larger number, putting it as high as 14,000 in one of his published statements, but this was shown by *Bradstreet's* census of the unemployed in the several towns on the line to be a gross exaggeration. The whole number thrown out of employment on the Missouri-Pacific and the Texas-Pacific was about 10,000, and half of these were non-strikers, who were ready to resume work whenever they could be protected. Both these and the new-comers have been scarcely heard of in the discussions of the period. But, taken together, they are not only the more numerous body of men, the larger representation of labor, but by far the most deserving. The non-strikers, more than 4,000 in number, who have been thrown out of employment through no action or fault of their own, are certainly entitled to the sympathy which the public always accord to men suddenly deprived of the means of livelihood by accident, such as the burning of a factory or the bankruptcy of employers. The new-comers are always the most needy class in the community, since only the most needy will brave the perils which usually assail those who take the places of strikers. Yet it is customary in the dissertations and stump speeches to which such disorders give rise to ignore the existence of any "labor" except that of the strikers. In common parlance, everybody who labors or seeks labor, but does not strike, is a "scab," a "rat," a disgrace to society and unfit for American citizenship, whereas the majority of them are deterred from joining the Knights of Labor or other local organizations by the demagogical character of the local leaders of the unions, and by the repression of individual freedom which membership implies.

The difficulties which Mr. Powderly has had to contend with are a very valuable contribution to the discussion of all the great schemes of state socialism, not excepting Mr. Henry George's land scheme. They all propose the starting of a business enterprise, such as the world never saw—that is, of a factory in which every man and woman in the nation would be an operative or dependent, and in which every product of human industry would be turned out, but they never say where the managers of the concern are to be found. It would in magnitude bear about the same proportion to the greatest railroad corporation in the world that the German or French army bears to a corporal's guard. Now it is with the greatest difficulty and by the offer of enormous salaries that the railroads find competent managers. Where are the managers of Socialistic States to be found? Who are they and where are they bred? What inducement is to be offered them for undertaking work that would land any mere man in the lunatic asylum in three months? We have no doubt Mr. Powderly has begun to ponder these questions himself. The trouble with the less thoughtful and intelligent Socialists is that the State which is to take care of the workingman, and raise his wages, and shield him from competition, always appears in their fancy as an all-wise and all-powerful person, who knows everything and can accomplish everything, without board, lodging, and washing, instead of being, as it really is, a group composed of Smith, Brown, Jones, White, Black, and Green, not one of whom probably could manage a large store, and all of whom are as anxious as anybody to be protected from competition and filled with good victuals at other people's expense.

The Republican Senators are still floundering about in their effort to make a little party capital out of their controversy with the President over nominations, but it becomes daily more evident that Mr. Edmunds cannot hold them to the rule of rejecting men simply because they cannot get the "papers." The otherwise profitless contest, however, is having one good result in emphasizing the absurdity of the "star-chamber" system of considering nominations in the Senate, and in strengthening the sentiment in favor of abolishing executive sessions. The canvassing of this question has revealed, more clearly than was before suspected, the outrageous character of this secret style of doing public business. For example, it has come out that one of the standing rules which govern the Senate in this branch of its duties is as follows:

> "If, however, charges shall be made against a person nominated, the Committee may, in its discretion, notify such nominee thereof, but the name of the person making such charges shall not be disclosed."

The Republican orators who have had so much to say about the "stabbing of character" involved in the President's removal of office-holders evidently have full scope for their eloquence in reforming the rules of their own body.

The almost unanimous rejection by the Senate, on Wednesday week, of a newly appointed Democratic postmaster in a Western State, on the ground that he had been an "offensive partisan" during his brief official career, shows how generally the idea that "public office is a public trust" is coming to be accepted. Two years ago the man would have been laughed at who should have suggested that the utmost political activity on the part of a Federal office-holder constituted a reason for his removal from office. Now even Democratic Senators vote to

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

reject the nomination of a Democratic postmaster who has been running his office on a political basis, as Republican postmasters used to do without criticism from anybody except a few "doctrinaires."

A bill has been favorably reported authorizing the President to arrange for a conference with the states of South and Central America, for the purpose, among other things, of improving "the business intercourse" between the United States and these countries, and "encouraging such peaceful and reciprocal commercial relations as will be beneficial to all, and secure more extensive markets for the surplus products of each of said countries." We trust that if the bill passes, the President will remember that no arrangement about commercial intercourse will be satisfactory which does not provide that each country shall sell more than it buys, and shall receive more gold or silver from the other countries than it parts with. If this is not looked after, each country will soon have "the balance of trade against it" and all its gold going abroad. The consequence of having the balance of trade against every country on both the American continents would be very terrible, and we shall not attempt to describe it further than by saying that it would probably afford the European despots the opportunity which they have been long waiting for. The Conference, when it comes off, is to cost $20,000, which is cheap enough if it were to do any good: but a conference to promote commercial intercourse with foreigners is surely something the American people will not have at any price. A $5 conference held with that end in view would be dear.

The recent attempt to double the rate of postage on seeds and other articles of "fourth-class matter," is a striking instance of the small pains taken by some lawmakers to know the operation of existing laws or the real needs of the people. Prior to 1872 the fourth-class postage rate was eight cents per pound; the existing rate is sixteen cents per pound. The bill introduced by Senator Wilson would double this and make the postage thirty-two cents per pound. In Canada the postage on this class of mail matter is four cents per pound, while in England it is six cents per pound for the first pound, and less than four cents where the packages are over one pound. In other European countries equally low rates prevail. The proposed bill must have been introduced in ignorance of these facts, or without consideration or regard for the effect it would have on the agricultural interests of the country. Proof of this is found in the fact that the Senator who introduced this bill doubling the fourth-class postage has now introduced another one reducing the rate one-half, evidently acting under pressure of the strong public opinion freely expressed throughout the country. There seems now to be little doubt that the rate of postage on this class of goods will not be increased; indeed, it is probable that before long seeds and scions will be distributed at a cost even less than heretofore, and a little nearer the prevailing rates of postage in other countries.

We are pained to observe that the Gloucester fishermen are not taking their medicine so manfully as might be desired. They held a public meeting at the Parker House in Boston on Friday, to denounce the unfriendly action of the Dominion authorities in preventing them from shipping Canadian sailors in Canadian ports in the customary way for the season's work. Protection to American industry requires an unrestricted supply of foreign labor. What is a duty on fish good for if our captains are to be taxed three or four dollars per head for all the men they hire in Nova Scotia to work their vessels? The meeting demanded retaliatory legislation to prohibit Canadian vessels from coming into our ports. They called on the President to send "a sufficient number of armed vessels" to the fishing grounds, to "look after and protect American vessels." In regard to the headland dispute, they proposed to make a test question at once by having an American vessel seized by a Canadian cruiser, and then calling on the Government to demand satisfaction. This unseemly preparation for hostilities for which the American people are to pay the costs, is on foot, as the resolutions of the meeting state, "for the reclamation of their home markets to the uses of American fishermen." Instead of peace and good will among men which have ruled for more than ten years along the northeastern boundaries and waters, we are to have cruisers making seizures of fishing smacks, upon our own procurement, in order to make a test case for claims for damages, and we are to get into as great a snarl as possible and as speedily as possible over a duty of one cent per pound on dried fish. But that is not all. It was the opinion of Mr. R. S. Spofford that a similar duty should be imposed on fresh fish, and that a delegation should be sent to the lake fishermen to induce them to combine for the purpose of bringing influence to bear upon Congress to this end. An American fishery union should be formed to promote the taxation of fish.

The proposition to put an American vessel in the way of being captured by a British cruiser in order to bring on an international difficulty is extremely brazen, and could only be avowed by persons who have come to look upon the tariff as a matter of religious faith, or as part and parcel of the common rights of man. Something of this spirit lurks in a recent article on the fisheries question by Theodore S. Woolsey, in which the argument is quite faultless if one concedes that a protecting duty is among the indefeasible rights of a fisherman, like life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The class of people who are opposed to the whole system of mutual robbery, and especially to that part of it which relates to the people's food, will not find any common standpoint with Mr. Woolsey, or with Mr. Spofford, or with Judge Woodbury. Even those who are indifferent as to the tariff controversy will be likely to ask what has happened lately to bring us into hot water with a friendly and kindred Power, with whom we have been at peace so many years. When they find that it is all about a beggarly duty on codfish they will, perhaps, think that it is better to repeal the duty than to have any international trouble at all. As regards the proposed martyrdom of an American fishing-smack, which is to be thrust into the jaws of a British cruiser, we presume that Secretary Bayard will at once, when the case comes before him, propose arbitration. Our judicial decisions and those of Canada on the headland question run so nearly parallel with each other that we should be much embarrassed to decide the test case without the moral support of an impartial umpire. Out of deference to the feelings of Mr. Blaine, it might be stipulated that we should not accept the late Minister of Belgium as a referee.

The death of Judge John Baxter last week is of especial public interest at the present time, owing to the fact that the Government suit to annul the Bell telephone patent has lately been begun at Columbus, O., in the circuit of the United States Court over which Judge Baxter presided. It has for some time been an open secret among the profession that Judge Baxter had strong sentiments against letters patent, and it needed to be a very clear case of infringement to secure success before him. So prevalent had become the feeling about his views in this particular that many suits were discontinued in his circuit, and few were begun there, the owners of patents preferring to allow infringement to go on unmolested in that district rather than to risk their rights in a suit, although their patents may have been sustained in other circuits. Under these circumstances the appointment of a successor to Judge Baxter by the President will be looked for with considerable interest.

The amount of work done by the judges of the United States Courts and the small compensation awarded them in salary have long been a subject of public discussion. It is now some years since a committee of the American Bar Association, after thorough consideration of the subject, reported a plan which would serve as a basis for a bill to relieve the Supreme Court and the Circuit Courts from the existing pressure of business, and several bills have been introduced for that purpose, but nothing of practical importance has yet been done by Congress. The sudden and unexpected death of Judge Baxter should bring the subject again into prominence and demand attention. The circuit over which Judge Baxter presided extends from Tennessee to Michigan, and his position required the performance of a vast amount of judicial labor. Aside from slight lameness, Judge Baxter was a man of robust health and energetic temperament, and his unexpected death was in all probability indirectly, if not directly, due to overwork. Of the United States judges in that circuit district, Judge Withey has for some time been too ill for service, and is trying to regain his lost health; Judge Brown, the District Judge at Detroit, has been so overworked that he is unable to leave his home to attend to court business, and according to last reports will not be well enough to hold court for some time to come. The death of Judge Baxter therefore leaves the United States Courts in Michigan without any judge to try causes or attend to court business

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

until his successor is appointed. In our own district, here in New York, it has become quite the practice for United States judges from Vermont, Connecticut, Northern New York, and Brooklyn, to assist in the disposition of cases which constantly accumulate upon the calendar, and all this judicial labor is performed for a salary less than one-half that paid the judge of our City Court. But a still worse state of affairs exists in the mass of business heaped upon the Supreme Court by the great and increasing number of causes coming up on appeal from the different circuit courts sitting in the various States. Suits involving questions of the greatest importance to the commercial and manufacturing interests of the country, in many instances, become almost matters of history before they can be reached in regular order and decided by the Supreme Court at Washington. This subject has been so long under consideration by Congress that there is doubtless now before the Judiciary Committee some feasible plan for the relief of the United States Courts, and the public interest requires that such a plan should be embodied in a law without delay.

Mayor O'Brien, of Boston, has again vindicated the confidence of his supporters that he would treat public questions submitted to him on a common-sense basis. The City Council recently passed an order that every laboring man employed by the municipality should receive a full day's pay for eight hours of work, after the 1st of May. A demagogue in the Mayor's chair would have promptly approved such a measure, especially when it had been supported by almost every member of his party in both branches of the Council. But Mr. O'Brien insisted upon examining into the matter. He applied to the Corporation Counsel for an opinion as to the legality of the proposed ordinance, and asked the head of each department for an estimate as to the additional expense of the eight-hour system. Investigation showed that the change would increase the cost of running the city government by about a million and a half dollars a year, which would involve not only a higher tax rate, but the repeal of the law passed by the Legislature limiting the rate of taxation in Boston, while the Corporation Counsel gave his opinion that under the new city charter the Council had no right to make so radical a change in the executive work of the different departments. The Mayor therefore returned the order without his signature, with a clear statement of its illegality and impracticability, and with the suggestion that the only feasible thing to do was to ask the Legislature for the changes in law required to render the change possible. Considering the strong temptation there was for him to content himself with signing the order and leaving the future to expose its weakness, Mr. O'Brien's course in this matter is most creditable to him.

Mayor Grace has made the gratifying announcement that in selecting new Excise Commissioners he will not appoint any one connected with the liquor or beer interest. He said that he had been requested to appoint "one man for the brewers, one for the liquor interest, and one outsider" to compose the new Board, and had declined the proposition. This was about the same composition as the present Board, which contained two members who refused to act with the third "because he was not in sympathy with the liquor interest." The curious notion that the Excise Board is designed not to limit and control the liquor traffic, but to encourage it, and if necessary shield it from the harshness of the excise laws, is a prevalent one in liquor circles, and is a perfectly natural outgrowth of the way in which the laws have been executed for many years. The Mayor is trying to change this by putting a different kind of men upon the Excise Board, but he will be prevented in his worthy intentions unless the Assembly makes haste to pass the bill for removing from the Aldermen all voice in the selections. The idea that the Aldermen would exercise a reforming influence in matters relating to the liquor traffic is so preposterous that we should think the Assembly would be ashamed to entertain it for a moment.

The Portland *Oregonian*, which certainly has enjoyed ample opportunities for forming a correct judgment, sums up thus briefly its conclusions as to the really effective way of stopping the anti-Chinese war on the Pacific Coast:

> "If the Chinaman can be taught to drink whiskey, given the right to vote, and induced to spend his money in the vile drinking holes, the 'agitation' against him will cease at once. He will then be accepted without further struggle as the associate and equal of Cronen, Hamilton, Cradlebaugh, Baker, Gilson, and the other 'champions of labor,' and the 'Anti-Coolie Association' will disband."

We commend this opening for missionary work to the reverend gentleman who, it was recently announced, had become agent of the league organized in California to drive the "heathen" out of this Christian land.

The internal dissensions which are said to exist within the ranks of the Irish party in this country are not very serious. All the trouble comes from the dynamite faction, which is led by such professional agitators as the *Irish World*, Alexander Sullivan, and Patrick Egan. From the moment that Mr. Parnell began to show faith in Mr. Gladstone's plans for home rule, these agitators have held aloof from him. They took no part in the recent effort which was made to send money to him from this country. They have been able, through their control of the organization, to postpone indefinitely the holding of a National League Convention, thus preventing any approval of Parnell's course which such a convention would be certain to give. They have refused to place any faith in Gladstone's sincerity, and have persistently argued that anything less than complete separation between England and Ireland should be rejected by the Irish. Yet they are only a noisy minority of the Irish-American party. Their recent efforts to raise funds for various purposes have been complete failures. They cannot deceive the ignorant masses of their own party any longer, and it is now plain that they cannot deceive Mr. Parnell, for word is cabled from Dublin that he is "making arrangements to collect funds in America irrespective of the League agents." Nothing has ever done more to repel American sympathy from Ireland than the prominence of the dynamite agitators in the Irish party here, and their open rejection by Parnell would be a great gain for his cause in the estimation of the American people.

The signs of war in the Balkan Peninsula steadily multiply. Greece has not only not disarmed, but has continued to increase her forces. Turkey has been straining every nerve all the winter to get ready for her, and Prince Alexander, of Bulgaria, has steadily refused to acquiesce in the temporary, instead of the permanent, union of Bulgaria and Rumelia, which Russia insists on as some sort of precaution against what she most dreads, the growth of a powerful and independent State between her and Constantinople. Accordingly she now proposes to punish his obstinacy by occupying Bulgaria, which would, of course, be a direct violation of the Treaty of Berlin. That Germany would stand this is very unlikely. It is still more unlikely that Austria will stand it, or will not occupy Servia on the smallest sign of a Russian invasion of Bulgaria. The materials for a great blaze of war, in fact, seem to be all prepared.

By a curious small coincidence, both the London *Spectator* and the *Saturday Review* for March 20, not prompted by the same topic, contain precisely similar observations upon a dangerous form of conceit to which the collectors of paintings, china, bric-à-brac, etc., are subject. It is the tendency to go off at score with a self-created idea of their own good judgment, and never to learn anything afterward; to depend upon a purely imaginary power of discernment, without improving knowledge by study, or even without recognizing the need of studying; and, moreover, to back the cherished opinion with great sums of money, to the ultimate confusion and disappointment of their heirs. The *Saturday Review* says:

> "Forgetting that, as a rule, a good thing will fetch very nearly, if not quite, its full value, they imagine that bargains are to be had much more often than is the case; and they commit the further mistake of persuading themselves that everything they have bought is much more beautiful, and more genuine, and more valuable than it ever was before."

The *Spectator* justly remarks that this foible may be noted also among buyers of horses and of stocks, and asks why such men do not know their own ignorance, and are self-deceived. The answer to this question it finds somewhat elaborately in the working of two passions—vanity and greed. The *Saturday Review*, it will be observed, slightly connotes the latter cause. Yet the case is probably simpler than this. Greed sharpens the dealer's perceptions and rectifies his judgment, and should perform the same office for the collector. On the other hand, vanity is practically non-existent with the dealer. We doubt if even in stocks greed has much to do with the delusion over "sure things"; it is much more likely to be vanity about one's special means of "information," or conceit of one's "judgment." The collector's besetting danger is only the weakness which makes nearly every man believe that he rides at least tolerably well, and is a "fair" shot.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, March 31, to TUESDAY, April 6, 1886, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

THE Senate on Thursday passed the bill appropriating $500,000 for a monument to Lincoln at Washington.

In the Senate on Monday Mr. Frye sharply criticised the course of the State Department on the fisheries questions, and its decision that American vessels were now bound by the provisions of the Treaty of 1818. He was only waiting, he said, for the seizure of some American fishing vessel by Canadian cruisers, which would probably happen within a week, when he would introduce a ten-line bill barring out Canadian vessels from American ports, and ask the Senate to put itself on record in support of that proposition. On Tuesday the Arbitration Bill passed by the House was favorably reported to the Senate.

Mr. W. L. Trenholm was confirmed by the Senate on Monday as Comptroller of the Currency.

The nomination of Mr. Lyman for Civil-Service Commissioner was reported favorably some days ago. The name of Mr. Oberly is also before the Senate. Mr. Edgerton is alone now on the Commission and is overworked. The delay in confirming the two new Commissioners is the occasion of embarrassment, as there are questions pressing which cannot be taken up while these nominations are held in suspense.

Caleb W. West, of Kentucky, was on Monday nominated by the President to be Governor of Utah Territory. He served in the Confederate army and has been a county judge. Speaker Carlisle recommended him.

The President on Friday nominated Col. Thomas H. Ruger, of the Eighteenth Infantry, to be Brigadier-General in place of General Terry, and Col. Joseph H. Potter, of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, to be Brigadier-General in place of Gen. O. O. Howard.

A caucus of Republican Senators on Friday without reaching a vote made it evident that a majority are opposed to Senator Edmunds's course, and will practically ignore his resolutions in dealing with nominations. There were also very strong expressions of opinion in favor of doing away with secret sessions.

The House of Representatives on Saturday passed the Labor-Arbitration Bill by 195 to 30. It was modified so that arbitration is optional, and the Government pays the expenses up to $1,000 for each case.

The Ways and Means Committee on Saturday took up the Hewitt Customs Bill, and added to it the free list of the Morrison bill so far as it applies to lumber, fish, salt, flax, and hemp. Wool was also added to the free list. Under the head of dutiable goods the chemical cotton schedules of the Morrison bill were added, with amendments relating to fine qualities of cotton goods, and the sugar duties were reduced 10 per cent.

The House passed on Monday the bill for a Congressional library building. The cost of it is limited to $550,000.

The House on Monday afternoon passed the Mexican War Pension Bill by 158 to 68. Mr. Dingley (Rep., Me.) introduced the following resolution: "That the President be requested to furnish the House with any information in his possession relative to the exclusion of American fishing vessels from the right to enter ports of entry of the Dominion of Canada for the purpose of trading, purchasing supplies, or landing fish caught in deep water for shipment in bond to the United States, or doing other acts which Canadian or other British vessels are freely permitted to do in ports of the United States; and also to inform the House what steps have been taken, or are proposed, to bring such unwarrantable acts of the Dominion authorities to the attention of the British Government."

The public-debt statement shows a decrease of $14,087,884 in March.

Geronimo, the Apache chief, with twenty other Indians, has escaped from Lieutenant Maus's custody.

General Miles has been transferred to General Crook's department in the Southwest. General Crook will relieve General Howard of the command of the Department of the Platte, the latter taking command of the Division of the Pacific.

An alarming incident of the strike occurred on Saturday. A Missouri-Pacific freight train left Fort Worth, Texas, in charge of twenty armed deputies. Two miles from the city it stopped on meeting a party of men, who were asked what they were doing, to which they replied that they were not armed, and had no intention of interfering with the road. As the officers returned to the cars they noticed several men sitting or lying on the grass a few yards from the train. The entire posse advanced toward the men in ambush until they reached the ditch alongside the track, when they commanded a throwing up of hands. The men in ambush then opened fire with Winchester rifles, killing one deputy and badly wounding two others. The fire was returned by the posse with revolvers. One rioter is known to have been killed and two wounded. There was intense excitement in Fort Worth on Sunday night, and many citizens were under arms. Several companies of militia and one battery have arrived there. Some of the prominent citizens are in favor of organizing a vigilance committee and hanging the leaders of the anti-law element. It is stated that these leaders have made out a list of houses to be pillaged and burned in case the strike is not settled peaceably. On Monday quiet was in a measure restored, and maintained by the militia.

The Missouri-Pacific officers refused to take the striking Knights of Labor back as a body, but considered their applications individually. This delayed the final settlement of the Gould system strike, though many freight trains were run without interruption. On Friday Vice-President Hoxie telegraphed to Mr. Gould: "While there may still be some trouble at a few points, I think that the worst is over. Things may not run smoothly for some days, but I have plenty of force to run trains and do repairs, and I am gradually recruiting my force with new men." By Saturday freight was moving from St. Louis in almost normal quantities. The blockade still continues at East St. Louis, where the strikers are very determined.

At St. Louis trains were freely running on Monday, although Mr. Hoxie had failed to reach any agreement with Messrs. Turner and Bailey, of the Knights of Labor. At East St. Louis the blockade continues, and more trouble is apprehended. The whole situation was further complicated by an order issued by the General Executive Board early Monday morning, recalling the order which directed the men to return to work. The reason for this action was Mr. Hoxie's refusal to take back all the Knights or to treat with their order as a body.

A sensation was created in political circles in this city on Thursday, when it became known that ex-Alderman Waite had made a statement to the District Attorney involving a number of members of the Board of 1884 in the Broadway franchise scandal. As a result William P. Kirk, who was President of the Board in 1884, was arrested on Thursday evening, and ex-Alderman Pearson on Friday, charged with bribery. Ex-Alderman Fullgraff is allowed his liberty, it is said, only on condition that he will give certain testimony which is in his possession.

FOREIGN.

The British Cabinet on Thursday discussed the scheme of buying out Irish landlords. In consequence of the unfavorable attitude of the Scotch Liberal Association, Mr. Gladstone proposed to modify his project in several particulars, but no agreement could be reached by the Cabinet.

Mr. James Stansfeld, the new Secretary for Scotland, in his address to the electors of Halifax, asking reëlection to the seat in Parliament made vacant by his acceptance of office, says he agrees with the principles enunciated by Mr. Gladstone in his Midlothian platform, and is resolved to assist the Premier in the work of practically realizing those principles. He has been reëlected.

A great mass-meeting was held in London on Friday afternoon in Guildhall to protest against the granting of a Parliament to Ireland. The Lord Mayor presided. Sir John Lubbock (Liberal), member of Parliament for London University, moved the adoption of a resolution condemning Mr. Gladstone for his intention of "handing Ireland over to Mr. Parnell, whom he previously denounced." A workingman arose and offered an amendment to Sir John Lubbock's resolution, but he was howled down, and the resolution was carried amid wild enthusiasm. But 200 persons in the immense audience voted in the negative. The name of Gladstone was repeatedly and vigorously hissed.

The British Conservatives are making strenuous efforts to form a coalition of the Whigs against Gladstone. Lord Hartington had a long interview with the Queen on Tuesday and also with Lord Salisbury.

Mr. Gladstone, on Tuesday afternoon, submitted his home-rule scheme to the Cabinet. It was reported that the discussion which followed resulted in continuing the Ministerial opposition to certain features of the Premier's proposals. The Earl of Kimberley, Secretary for India; Mr. Childers, Home Secretary; Sir William Vernon Harcourt, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Mundella, President of the Board of Trade, were, it was said, as much opposed as ever to that feature which surrenders control of the customs in Ireland. Later in the day, however, it was announced that the Cabinet feud had abated. Mr. Gladstone modified his proposals regarding customs control, by giving the English Parliament the right to veto all fiscal enactments of Ireland, providing that an imperial Receiver shall collect customs and excise, and making imperial claims the first charges on the revenues. The malcontents consequently withheld their resignations.

The following outline is given with reserve: Mr. Gladstone proposes the establishment at Dublin of a statutory Irish National Parliament of a single chamber, elected largely by the same franchise as the existing representation in Parliament. Special guarantees will be taken to secure the presence of an adequate proportion of Protestant members. Mr. Parnell agrees to an arrangement by which at least 75 out of a House of 300 members will be allotted to the Protestants. To this Parliament will be handed over the whole administration of Ireland, together with the exclusive right to legislate on Irish affairs. An Irish Ministry will control the magistrates and police, undertake the enforcement of the law, and have supreme authority over all Irish affairs, except the military forces of the Crown, which will remain under the exclusive control of the Viceroy. The Viceroy will be appointed by the Crown, and will, probably be non-political, as is the Viceroy of India. The existing constabulary, as an armed and drilled military force, will be under the direct orders of the Viceroy, as will be the other imperial troops garrisoned in Ireland. The statutory Parliament will impose, remit, and collect all taxes levied in Ireland, and defray from the same the cost of the local administration. The new body is forbidden

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

to impose a protective tariff which would close the Irish markets to English goods. The number of Irish members in the Imperial Parliament will not much exceed a score. They will only sit in the House of Commons when questions involving imperial considerations are under discussion. A veto upon all acts of the Irish Legislature is to be vested in the Crown, and exercised by advice of the Imperial Ministry. If the House of Commons wishes to challenge the exercise of this veto, or censure a minister for not advising its exercise, the Irish members will be admitted before the debate takes place.

The Dublin *Freeman's Journal* says that the Irish Land Bill which Mr. Gladstone will propose does not, as has been stated, involve either a compulsory purchase or the advance of any specified sum from the Imperial Treasury. What the measure will enact will be the right of any owner of land in Ireland to claim from the Government of Ireland, after home rule has been granted, the privilege of being bought out at a sum regulated by law. This sum will be arrived at by multiplying the amount of the rent where it is judicially fixed, or of a fair rent where it is not rated judicially, by a term of years to be agreed upon by Parliament. The imperial exchequer is to provide the purchase money. The Irish Government is to guarantee repayment and is to attend to the business of reimbursing the empire for all these outlays, by disposing of the purchased lands to occupiers, and collecting in the shape of payments therefor such rents as will cover the whole sum back in forty-nine years. As at present framed, Mr. Gladstone's bill fixes the rents to be paid by the tenants at 4 per cent. per annum on the amount of the purchase. When the tenant has paid in rent to the Irish Government the amount the land cost the Government, he is to become the owner. Although the tenant is to pay the Irish Government 4 per cent. per annum, the latter will be responsible to the Imperial Treasury for only 3½ per cent. per annum, the difference to go into a sinking fund to meet bad debts, the cost of collection, and so forth.

The House of Commons at 2 o'clock on Friday morning took up the bill for the relief of the poor of Ireland and passed it to a second reading. The bill authorizes boards of guardians to make grants of food to the poor, subject to the sanction of the local-government board. The first two sections of the act passed in 1883 for the relief of distressed unions are revived, but the total amount of grants must not exceed £40,000. Briefly stated, the object of the bill is to legalize the granting of out-door relief in kind, on such conditions as the local-government board may specify.

It is rumored that Mr. Parnell contemplates making arrangements to collect funds in America irrespective of the League agents.

William E. Forster, Chief Secretary for Ireland under the previous Gladstone Ministry, died on Monday. He was the son of William Forster, a minister of the Society of Friends, and was born at Bradpole, Dorsetshire, England, on July 11, 1818. His father came to the United States on an anti-slavery mission during the great struggle. He died during the visit and was buried in Tennessee. As a monument to his father's memory Mr. Forster founded a Quaker school at Friendsville, Tenn., in 1874. In April, 1859, Mr. Forster entered upon his political career by unsuccessfully contesting Leeds as a candidate for the House of Commons. In February, 1861, he was returned for Bradford, for which borough he has been returned at every succeeding election. In politics Mr. Forster was what is termed a "Philosophical Radical." In December, 1868, he became Minister of Education. This office he held until Mr. Gladstone retired in February, 1874, having been admitted to a seat in the Cabinet in 1870. He achieved a commanding position during Gladstone's first Administration, his name being especially connected with two of the most vital measures of that period—the Educational Act and the Ballot Act. When Mr. Gladstone resumed office in April, 1880, Mr. Forster was made Chief Secretary for Ireland, and held that position until May, 1882, when he resigned and was succeeded by the unfortunate Lord Frederick Cavendish. His incumbency of the Irish Secretaryship was a stormy one. He began by pressing through the House of Commons the Irish Compensation and Registration Bills, which were thrown out by the House of Lords. In 1881 he managed the Irish Land Bill and secured its enactment, but this measure he accompanied by a coercion bill and by a proclamation which declared the Land League illegal and criminal, and caused the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Parnell and about 1,000 others for the part taken by them in the land agitation. As a result, he became very unpopular with the Irish element in England as well as at home. He was forced to resign on May 3, 1882. Although out of office, Mr. Forster did not abandon his policy, but continued to expound it forcibly in the House of Commons.

The London *News* demands of the British Government an explanation of the statement printed in New York that British contractors and officers are interested financially in the construction of the new vessels to be built for the American Navy. The new cruisers, it is asserted, are to be designed by a syndicate, of whom Sir Nathaniel Barnaby, ex-Chief Constructor of the British Navy, Mr. White, the present Chief Constructor, and the gunnery firm of Sir William Armstrong & Co., are the principal members. The last-mentioned firm deny the truth of the assertion. Mr. White, however, writes to the *News*: "I believe that the American Government purchased from Messrs. Armstrong & Co. some designs which I prepared while in their service and out of the public service. These designs were the property of Messrs. Armstrong & Co., and were unlike any existing in the British Navy. Sir Nathaniel Barnaby took no part in drawing up the designs." Sir Nathaniel Barnaby writes to the *News*: "I consider that the fact that I am pensioned does not debar me from designing for foreign countries, if I thereby obtain work for British builders. As to the alleged facts, the Marquis of Ripon, First Lord of the Admiralty, has the right to question me." From unofficial sources it is learned that our Navy Department is in possession of copies of every design of value relating to naval construction that has been prepared by the British Government.

Sir Charles Dilke's lawyer has been informed that providing Dilke and his witnesses will make affidavits of his innocence, a third party will apply to court showing cause why the decree of divorce should not be made absolute. This places Dilke's fate, if innocent, in his own hands.

Cambridge defeated Oxford in the annual boat-race on the Thames, on Saturday, by half a length. It was one of the best contests ever rowed between the Universities.

A gloomy view was taken on Friday of the whole Eastern question. There was great activity at the British Foreign Office. The Russian fleet was ordered to return to Suda Bay, and two French ironclads were placed in readiness for immediate despatch to the Mediterranean.

Sir Horace Rumboldt, the British Minister to Greece, was ordered on Friday to join with the other foreign diplomatic representatives at Athens in sending to the Greek Government a final remonstrance against Greece's warlike attitude. This will be tantamount to an ultimatum, and if Greece ignores it, the foreign fleet will act forthwith.

Mr. Bryce, Under Foreign Secretary, said in the House of Commons on Monday that Greece had not accepted the advice of the Powers as to the course she should pursue in her troubles with Turkey. He also said that the Government had no information which would enable them to say that Greece would refrain from war.

The Russian Government has notified the Powers that Russia will take no part in coercing Greece. The Greek and Turkish armies on the Turco-Greek frontier have lost 10 per cent. of their men by extremely cold weather.

The Balkan Conference at Constantinople will appoint Prince Alexander Governor of Eastern Rumelia for five years, ignoring the Prince's refusal to accept the appointment for that term.

Prince Alexander refuses absolutely to submit to the Powers, as demanded by Russia, the question whether his title of Governor of Eastern Rumelia is for life, as he claims, or, as Russia contends, for the term of five years. The Bulgarian papers applaud the attitude of the Prince. A despatch from St. Petersburg says the Russian Government has definitely decided to occupy Bulgaria within a few weeks unless Prince Alexander submits to the wishes of Russia.

M. Tricoupis, ex-Prime Minister of Greece, in an attack on the present Government on Saturday in the Chamber of Deputies, blamed the Ministers for missing the opportunity of arriving at a good understanding with Turkey presented by the recent war between Servia and Bulgaria. He also criticised the Government for failing to organize properly the Greek army, and urged that the raw recruits be sent home and well-trained men be added to the army, so that the country might be in a state of military readiness in case of emergency.

The Greek Minister of War on Monday returned from a tour of inspection of the frontier defences. He expressed his delight to the various commanders at the efficiency of the works. Before leaving Arta, he requested the officers to inform their men that they were destined to uphold the honor of Greece on the field of battle, and would not return to their homes until that honor was satisfied. The tip of the War Minister and the expressions used by him were taken to indicate a speedy declaration of war. A late despatch on Tuesday asserted, however, that the King of Greece and his Ministers had decided to abandon war preparations, as Prince Alexander had yielded to the Powers.

M. Ristitch has withdrawn from the task of forming a new Servian Ministry. He was not satisfied with the war budget. M. Garashanin has consented to attempt the formation of a Cabinet.

Returns from the Spanish elections so far show the election of 301 Ministerialists, 60 followers of Castillo, 18 Federal and Zorillist Republicans, 26 Democrats, 10 Independent Conservatives, and 8 followers of Dominguez. The elections were orderly.

MM. Roche and Ducquerey have been arrested at Decazeville, the scene of the French mining troubles, and taken to the prison of Villefranche. This has caused a sensation in Paris. Socialists have called an indignation meeting, when, it is believed, they will decide on some form of retaliation for the arrests.

Another of Pasteur's Russian patients has died of hydrophobia.

The German Reichstag on Wednesday by a vote of 173 to 146 prolonged the Anti-Socialist Law two years. The majority consisted mainly of National Liberals and Conservatives, and the minority of German Liberals. The Socialists abstained from voting.

The Lower House of the Prussian Diet on Friday adopted the first clause of the Polish bill placing 100,000,000 marks at the disposal of the Government for establishing German colonies in West Prussia and Posen.

Despatches from Anam report fresh massacres at the Catholic missions in the province of Quang Bing. The number of victims is said to be 442.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

MR. WEEKS ON ARBITRATION.

THE promoters of the O'Neill Arbitration Bill in Congress—those, at least, who desire to be useful to their day and generation, and not merely to scramble for the "labor vote" in the next election—will do well to possess themselves of Mr. Joseph D. Weeks's tract on labor differences and their settlement, just issued by the Society for Political Education. Although the arguments in favor of arbitration and conciliation as opposed to strife and contention are as plain and obvious as the advantages of peace over war among nations, or those of trial by jury over trial by ordeal among individuals, it is surprising how few of the current disputes between employers and employed are actually settled in that way. The explanation is, that when a strike or a lockout has once got headway, men's passions are enlisted, and the voice of reason has no hearing until one side or the other is pretty well exhausted—that is, until a great deal of misery has been endured. To make arbitration successful, as Mr. Weeks shows, it is necessary to have it in the house before the difficulty begins. The court or committee to decide the disputed points must have been appointed and empowered beforehand, must be within reach at all times, and ought to hold regular meetings, whether there is any question to arbitrate upon or not, since the habit of meeting tends to produce a friendly feeling among the arbitrators, which is reflected back upon their constituents.

Mr. Weeks finds it necessary to "take a hack" at political economy in his prefatory chapters before introducing us to the main body of his argument. The doctrine of *laissez-faire* he demolishes by first confounding it with competition, and then demolishing that. The *laissez-faire* of the economists is simply a denial of or protest against State interference with the industrial occupations of individuals. It has nothing to oppose to voluntary combinations of workingmen or of employers, still less to arbitration and conciliation. It would, of course, be opposed to compulsory arbitration, which should seek to make contracts obligatory upon parties for future work. This Mr. Weeks is opposed to, and he shows that such arbitration can never be enforced; and that it would be harmful if it could be.

Mr. Weeks's attack upon competition is not more successful than his attack upon *laissez-faire*. It is not necessary to show at length where his argument fails, but a single remark may serve to indicate that he does not grasp the meaning of competition when he offers arbitration as a remedy for it. No system of arbitration between employer and employee can prevent the children of both from growing up and competing with others, perhaps with their own parents, for the possession of the world's goods. The value of arbitration consists not in suppressing competition—that could not be done if the whole world should solemnly vote to do it—but in avoiding the loss and waste, the misery, vice, and crime, consequent upon the suspension of industry. It is possible to change the direction which competition shall take, but not to lessen it in the aggregate. This is the only criticism we make upon Mr. Weeks's timely publication, and this upon the theoretical branch of the discussion only.

The arguments in support of the principle of arbitration are, as has been stated, all on the surface. They need not be recounted. Arbitration has been practised on an extensive scale in many countries on many different plans. It has yielded its best results in three places and trades in England, the Nottingham hosiery and glove trade, the Durham collieries, and the north of England iron furnaces. At Nottingham—

> "The Board consists of twenty-two members, half operatives and half manufacturers, elected for one year, each class electing its own representatives. The delegates have full powers, and the decisions of the Board are considered binding upon all. There is provision for a Committee of Inquiry, to whom all differences must be referred before the Board will act upon them. This Committee has no power to make an award, acting only as conciliators. A month's notice is to be given to the secretaries before any change in the rates of wages will be considered. Regular meetings are held quarterly. The chairman, in the original constitution of the board, has a vote, and a casting vote as well, in case of tie. This was one of the weak points in the organization, and, as the chairman was an employer, trouble resulted. A referee is now called in case of a failure to agree.
>
> "The proceedings under these rules are very simple. When any difference arises between the employers and employed the secretaries endeavor to arrange it. In the event of their failure it is brought before the Committee of Inquiry, who try to settle it; and it being unable, it is then brought before the Board. One of the invariable conditions of any arbitration is that work shall be continued pending the trial of the case; that is, that there shall be neither strike nor lockout. The proceedings before the Board are very informal. The members sit around a table, workingmen and employers interspersed. The discussion is without ceremony, and the difference is settled by endeavoring to arrive at the best arrangement possible under the circumstances. If no agreement can be reached, the umpire is called upon."

The Nottingham arrangement is a type of the most successful application of the principle that has ever been made. The Board may make binding decisions on any questions brought before it except the future rate of wages. Upon this question it may only recommend. The reason for this limitation is the very obvious one that it is impossible to require a manufacturer to keep his works going if he thinks they are to be run at a loss, and equally so to keep men at work in a particular place if they can do better elsewhere. All systems of arbitration and conciliation are agreed as to this, the legalized boards of France and Belgium as well as the voluntary ones of Great Britain. Mr. Weeks evidently favors the voluntary system, but is so much the friend of arbitration that he would have it made compulsory within proper limits. Arbitration does not prevent strikes. It does not even prevent violence, as events have recently shown in Belgium, where legal arbitration has existed under the *Conseils des Prud-hommes* for half a century. But it prevents many unnecessary and unjustifiable strikes, and saves a vast deal of trouble and loss arising from unfounded suspicion and misunderstanding of facts. The next great industrial reform in this country should be the organization of arbitration. Even boycotting would disappear under its influence.

AN ECONOMIST'S ADVICE TO THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

IT would be hard to find a set of men who need good advice more than the Knights of Labor do, and we are glad to find Dr. R. T. Ely, the well-known Baltimore economist, so ready in supplying it. Dr. Ely is, we believe, the leading instructor in political economy in the Johns Hopkins University, and is one of several graduates of German universities who have brought across the ocean that curious admixture of sense and nonsense, commonly but wrongly known among us as German political economy. He is an ardent believer in popular government, which is all right, and he is a yet more ardent supporter of labor movements, which are about the only enemy popular government seems likely to encounter in our time. His latest effort, which appeared in the Baltimore *American* of Thursday, is a long and elaborate "open letter" to the Knights of Labor, appealing to them to come out in support of civil-service reform. The soundness of its advice, the naïveté of its argument, and its simple-minded faith in the wisdom, purity, and high-mindedness of the men it addresses, all combine to render it an interesting document.

Very early in the letter the writer betrays a consciousness that his task is rather an awkward one, in that civil-service reform was invented by a class of men of whom Knights of Labor entertain a deep distrust. They are all eminently respectable men, who wear swallow-tail coats and white neck-ties, but we find no leaders of the masses among them, and "they have seemed to overlook the essential character of our Republican Government." Here, as in several other passages, Dr. Ely's ground is not at all clear to us. In order to become "leaders of the masses," is anything more necessary than that they should succeed in getting the masses to vote with them? If they do this, are they not, by that very fact, leaders? In other passages he points out that the only other leaders the masses have are "liars, liquor-dealers, and the worst elements." Was it a mistake to permit these men to remain outside of civil-service reform associations? If not, who were the neglected leaders so pointedly referred to? We have studied the letter in vain to find a reply to this question.

How much soever we may regret this vagueness, there can be no doubt that Dr. Ely sugar-coats his pill with great art. Although he intimates that there is another side to the question, he cannot squarely deny that civil-service reformers belong to a very objectionable class of men. And yet he wants the Knights to accept their doctrine. So, with persuasive rhetoric, he points out that they can take his advice without getting into any bad company: "If you don't want to march with them, you can at least enter into their labors and appropriate what they have done as a free gift." We shall look with great interest to see whether his clients will accept this view.

Leaving out this rather awkward introduction of the civil-service reformers to their future constituency, Dr. Ely's whole tone is that of unlimited confidence in the wisdom and statecraft of the men he is addressing. He says that the very work the Knights are at-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

tempting is an elevation of the people to a higher intellectual and moral level. If he means all he says, he must think that the stoppage of trains, the "killing" of engines, the mobbing of "scabs," and the expulsion of Chinese, are the dawn of a higher civilization, and that ignorance of the boycott will yet be looked upon as one of the features of the dark ages. But perhaps he does not mean all this, so let us return to his actual advice. He says the most pressing need of the time is that the Government, under the right of eminent domain, shall purchase all telegraphs, telephones, and railroads, and no longer allow any corporation to transport intelligence, passengers, or freight. This will require an immense increase in our army of civil servants, and unless they are faithful and trained men, our property will be mismanaged, our lives risked, and perhaps we may still be plundered as badly as ever. The word "perhaps" is brought in with great rhetorical skill. It would hardly do to tell the Knights categorically that things could be worse under their policy than they are now. But they can stand such a statement as this: If when Government manages the railroads all the engine-drivers, switch-tenders, and train-starters are appointed and discharged on the recommendation of pot-house politicians, then *perhaps* things might be as bad as before.

These are not all the cogent appeals for administrative reform which the letter urges upon the Knights. Their attention is pointedly called to the low character of the politicians at Washington and Annapolis, and their gross neglect of their legislative duties. "There are fifty measures which you (Knights) want passed at once," and which you are sending delegations to urge, but instead of attending to this business, the politicians talk of nothing but "petty personalities which are not of the slightest concern to the laboring classes." So, the Knights must vote for civil-service reform, and then we shall have men who will at once proceed to legislate. The first of the fifty measures to be taken up must be that for the purchase of the railroads and telegraphs. How fast the other forty-nine will be passed is not indicated, but we are sure that less than one a day would show a lack of energy to which the civil-service reform Knights would never submit.

We must congratulate Dr. Ely that his letter appeared in the nick of time to prevent a possible insinuation against his motives on the part of his more bigoted opponents. On the very morning of its publication came a press despatch from Reading, Pa., stating that some seventy cigar factories could not sell their products in the West unless they bore a label showing that they had been made by Knights of Labor. From stopping the sale of all cigars not made by Knights to stopping all teaching by political economists not licensed by the Knights to teach, would be a very short step to a power which wanted fifty measures, like those just alluded to, passed by Congress at once. Had the letter not appeared till after this announcement, there would have been room for the insinuation that Dr. Ely wanted to be on the right side when the Knights decided who should teach political economy. Happily there is now no ground for such a suspicion.

PLUNKITT'S "PROPOSITION."

Mr. Plunkitt has introduced in the State Senate a bill, which has been read twice, providing for the submission to the electors of the State of a proposition to "abolish the office of Civil-Service Commissioner and the Civil-Service Commission, and to repeal the laws relating thereto." It enacts that a vote shall be taken at the election of this year for or against this proposition. This bill has been introduced at the instigation of the Tammany opponents of the Civil-Service Law from this city, as the only means of overcoming or getting around the opposition to its repeal which they encounter in the Legislature every year. They calculate that if they can get a majority at the polls in favor of the proposition, the fear of "the reform club," under which even the worst legislators now live, would be removed, and they would make haste to restore the offices to the spoilsmen, whose importunities they now find it so difficult to withstand.

But why should they expect a majority at the polls? it may be asked. For the simple reason, which they have constantly in mind, that it is very hard to call out a full vote of the electors except on plain, pressing, and practical questions, possessing a strong public interest, which the election will decide, such as the election of high officers and the adoption of Constitutional Amendments. On "propositions" submitted by the Legislature merely for the purpose of ascertaining the drift of popular opinion, that great mass of the electors who are busy with honest industry, will not take the trouble to inform themselves, or even to go to the polls. But the other kind of voters, to whom "politics" means simply a struggle for the offices, and to whom the Civil-Service Law is, therefore, odious, would take the deepest interest in the proposition, and would drag to the polls every one whom they influence, and might possibly get a majority on a light vote. At all events, what the supporters of the Plunkitt bill count on is the apathy of the friends of the reform and the great activity of its enemies, in what would probably be their last chance to strike a blow at it.

This much by way of explanation of Plunkitt's scheme. Now as to its propriety. The people of New York pay the State Legislature $211,200 for about six months' work, and provide them with a costly building to work in. This work is legislation, and legislation does not mean simply reading bills three times and then voting on them. It means the careful examination of the subjects on which legislation is proposed, within the limits set by the Constitution, and the decision by the legislators, with such lights as they have, what ought to be done about them. That is what they are paid for, and they are paid handsomely. They are, in other words, hired by the voters to attend to their law-making, and to save them the trouble and expense of voting on every piece of business which has to be done for the State. Any legislator who does not feel himself competent for this work, or who feels the need of a popular vote before he can make up his mind about such a commonplace matter as the best mode of ascertaining the fitness of State employees for their places, ought to resign and go home. If Plunkitt be in need of this guidance, Plunkitt ought to resign. If the Judiciary Committee who have reported this bill favorably, feel the need of it, every man of them ought to go home, and tell their constituencies that they are not up to their work. Their performance is nearly as absurd as that of a bank cashier who insisted on getting the stockholders together every day or two to balance his books. In other words, if the bill is passed, it will be a confession of fraud and incompetency on the part of every man voting for it.

Moreover, the Legislature of the State of New York as created by the Constitution is a law-making body, and not a committee for arranging plébiscites. The sole case in which the Legislature is justified in taking a popular vote on a law is prescribed in the Constitution, section 12 of article vii., where popular approval is required for the creation of a State debt over and above a limited amount. This question was fully discussed by the Court of Appeals, in the case of Barto against Himrod, which arose under an attempt of the Legislature to shirk its responsibility in the same way in the matter of an act establishing free schools. It tried to throw the burden on the people by taking a popular vote on the bill, but the Court of Appeals pronounced the act unconstitutional and void. That decision is not exactly applicable to Plunkitt's proposition, for we do not understand that he thinks a majority vote in its favor will make it a law, but the Court was very emphatic in its condemnation of the Plunkitt principle, namely, that the Legislature "may take a popular vote on the identical question which the Constitution makes it the duty of the Legislature itself to decide." Said Chief Justice Ruggles:

> "They have no more authority to refer such a question to the whole people than to an individual. The people are sovereign, but their sovereignty must be exercised in the mode which they have pointed out in the Constitution. All legislative power is derived from the people; but when the people adopted the Constitution, they surrendered the power of making laws to the Legislature, and imposed it upon that body as a duty. They did not reserve to themselves the power of ratifying or adopting laws proposed by the Legislature, except in the single case of contracting public debt. They probably foresaw the evil consequences likely to arise from such a reservation. These are well and forcibly expressed by Mr. Justice Johnson in his opinion in the case of Johnson v. Rich, 9 Barb., 686. 'I regard it,' said he, 'as an unwise and unsound policy, calculated to lead to loose and improvident legislation, and to take away from the legislator all just sense of his high and enduring responsibility to his constituents and to posterity, by shifting that responsibility upon others. Experience has also shown that laws passed in this manner are seldom permanent, but are changed the moment the excitement under which they are ratified has abated or reversed its current; of all the evils which afflict a State, that of unstable and capricious legislation is among the greatest.'"

It was discussed again in the case of the Bank of Chenango against Brown (26 N. Y., p. 470), with like result. The Court again said that the Legislature "cannot delegate to the people the power to vote on the precise question which the Constitution makes it their own duty to decide, that is, the expediency of a given law." It was discussed again in the case of Clarke against the City of Rochester (28 N. Y., p. 633), and Chief-Justice Denio then said:

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

"The Government organized by the Constitution was considered to be, as it undoubtedly is, that of a representative republic, and no power existed in the Legislature to convert it into a pure democracy. The organization of the law-making power is one of the principal purposes of a constitutional charter of government, and in all communities of considerable extent this must be effected by means of a system of representation by which people at stated intervals delegate to citizens chosen by them the power of enacting general laws by which all members of the State are to be governed. That purpose is expressed in the Constitution of this State by the declaration that the legislative power shall be vested in the Senate and Assembly."

We would warn members of the Legislature that they will not escape these weighty condemnations by the cheap device of submitting "propositions" to the people, instead of actual bills. They began this plan of shirking their responsibility in 1883 by submitting a proposition about convict labor; but the public will not stand another repetition of this. They will not submit to be saddled with the expense and trouble of deciding questions which they have hired legislators to decide. Therefore, any member of the Legislature who does not feel himself mentally or morally competent to vote aye or no out of his own head on so simple a matter as the question whether the Civil-Service Commission, which the Legislature itself has created, ought to be abolished, ought to resign at once and make way for a better man.

POLITICAL SCIENTISTS.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY'S manifesto about the Irish question, published in Saturday morning's *Tribune*, is extremely interesting, as showing what kind of government the modern world would get were the Comtist scheme, of having councils of scientific men set to rule over the nations, carried out. He expresses in thorough Carlylese his contempt for "government by average opinion," which he says "is merely a circuitous method of going to the devil," and demands instead of it "one real statesman" of "the calibre of Pitt or Burke, to say nothing of Strafford and Pym." The only mark of such a statesman that Mr. Huxley furnishes to the English people is, that he (the statesman) would "stand up" and tell his countrymen that "the proposed disruption of the Union [with Ireland] is cowardly wickedness," "an act base in itself and fraught with immeasurable evil." But if this performance is all that is necessary for statesmanship, England swarms to-day with real statesmen. Hundreds of politicians, and particularly Lord Randolph Churchill, have stood up and told Englishmen this very thing, and yet Mr. Huxley says, a little further on, that at the last election "he would have voted for the Conservatives for the first time in his life had it not been for Lord Randolph Churchill."

In Parnell he recognizes a genuine leader of men of the Carlylese sort. He says of him:

"Mr. Parnell has great qualities. For the first time the Irish malcontents have a leader who is not eloquent and who is honest, who knows what he wants and faces the risks involved in getting it. Our poor Right Honorable rhetoricians are no match for this man, who understands realities. I believe that he will succeed, and that success will destroy him, and I am very sorry for him. I respect him. I believe also that his success will destroy English politicians who permit themselves to be his instruments, as soon as a bitter experience of the consequence has brought Englishmen and Scotchmen, and I will add Irishmen, to their senses."

Nevertheless, instead of rejoicing that the Irish have got a genuine leader who "understands realities," and encouraging the English, who have not got one, to listen to him and heed him, he dismisses him with the pleasant remark that "success will destroy him."

Carlylese philosophers discoursing on politics have always been a little obscure. They have never yet furnished the world with a good working plan of government, but we doubt if any of them have been more barren in their utterances than Mr. Huxley. What encouragement is there for public men to "understand the realities," and become genuine leaders of men, when success will only ruin them? Surely if the Carlylese gospel had real salvation in it, it would be the duty of the English public now to throw their own statesmen overboard and buckle to Parnell with all their might. In fact, it seems to us painfully apparent that there is no use in being a real statesman, or grasping the verities, if one does not agree with Professor Huxley on the leading question of the day.

The manifesto also gives no reason for despising "the average opinion," except that on a particular question Professor Huxley does not share it. If it agreed with his own, touching Gladstone's effort to settle the long quarrel with Ireland, it is plain it would be much more respectable. The appearance of Sir John Lubbock at the furious Jingo meeting at Guildhall at which Gladstone and Parnell were hissed, makes the scientific opposition to Gladstone now very complete. Tyndall is as furious a Jingo and anti-Gladstonian as anybody, and we suppose there are other scientists of less note also boiling over with indignation against him more privately.

The phenomenon is most regrettable, because it will help to increase the growing popular contempt and dislike for "the scholar in politics." The occasional appearances of scientists like Tyndall and Huxley in the political arena are mischievous, because they do not bring with them a scrap or vestige of their scientific equipment. When they get "inside politics," they rant and roar just like any stump orator. This is not all. They go much further in the direction of non-science than any politician, for they demand before they begin their experiments, not the facts as they are, but facts as they would like them to be. Mr. Gladstone did not make modern England or modern Ireland. He found them as they are—that is, what six centuries of causation have made them; and the problem he has to solve is to make the actual Englishman and Irishman, and not the ideal Huxleyan Englishman and Irishman, stop quarrelling. The "average opinion," which Huxley abuses him for regarding, is also one of the great facts of the problem. There is no more use in calling him names for taking it into account than abusing a chemist because alkalis are alkalis instead of being acids, or an artillerist for allowing for the resistance of the air. In truth, the scientists rarely open their lips about politics except when they are much excited about it, and they then almost invariably reveal their incapacity for political thinking. The difficulty of collecting and arranging the facts of all political problems, and the noise and confusion through which average opinion expresses itself, shock their sense of order and disturb their judgment. If they were ever to succeed to the government of the world, they would never be satisfied with anything short of a drilled society, from which political opinion would issue in prescribed lengths with official labels of soundness.

QUESTIONS FOR THE BRITISH PREMIER.

LONDON, March 27.

MR. GLADSTONE'S closed hand is to remain closed until the 8th of April. On that day he will make a statement and possibly ask leave to introduce a bill relating to the government of Ireland. It is taken for certain that before the statement is made Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Trevelyan will have retired from the Cabinet. They will retain office, if they can, until the Crofters' Bill is well on its way through Committee; then they will go, and their places will probably be filled by smaller men. As to the nature of Mr. Gladstone's scheme, and the points at issue between him and his colleagues, we have literally no information. We have indeed a considerable number of paragraphs with large-type headings, but the headings have nothing behind them. They are like the scenes run forward while the chief tableau of the piece is being prepared. A vast extent of country is indicated or suggested; secondary characters enter and engage in conversations which nobody follows; the attention of the audience is held in reserve by the mysterious sounds of shuffling and thumping behind. It would be a waste of time to discuss all the statements which have been made this week "on the best authority." They may all be summed up in the phrase of Goldsmith's coffee-house politician, "A certain Minister is reported to cherish secret intentions, but this requires confirmation." Before Mr. Gladstone tells us what his intentions are, your readers may, perhaps, like to know what are the questions which the country will expect him to answer.

First, he will have to let us know in what order he proposes to take the various branches of the Irish difficulty. Is it to be a case of home rule first—Mr. Parnell's one-plank platform of November last; or shall we have a land-purchase measure first—a bridge on which the landlords may cross St. George's Channel before Mr. Parnell comes to his kingdom? This question the Prime Minister will probably meet by demanding to have the two measures considered together. They are indeed so closely connected that neither can well stand without the other. If they are taken together, the effect on parties will be curious. Landlords who have been looking forward with dread to the possible policy of a native Parliament will welcome home rule if it is combined with a generous scheme of land purchase. On the other hand, many Radicals who are willing to grant home rule will object strongly to a scheme for buying out the landlords on the credit of the imperial exchequer.

If Mr. Gladstone proposes purchase, he will have to meet opposition from two quarters. There are the enemies of the landlords, who grudge them the proposed compensation. Mr. Davitt has already been heard to protest against any leniency being shown to an "idle and worthless class." An ardent Home Ruler tells me that he means to echo this protest as soon as he gets a chance—and why? Because he thinks it would be a mistake to turn the landlords out altogether. He wishes to curtail their power and to get as much out of them as possible; but they do serve certain use-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ful purposes, and therefore, for the sake of the tenants and laborers, the landlords should not be permitted to sell out.

Again, any scheme of land purchase is sure to be opposed in the name of the British taxpayer. Here again we have to note one of those odd changes which Irish questions so often produce among English politicians. Hitherto our economists have been to some extent in sympathy with the landlord; they have taken objection to any argument which seemed to deny or undervalue the owner's interest in the land. Now they seem to be bent on showing that the owners of Irish land have no interest on which it would be safe to advance money. Sir James Caird has committed himself to the proposition that the majority of small holdings in Ireland cannot pay rent at the present time; his assertion was eagerly taken up by the *Times*, and we were told that land purchase meant simply the purchase of rents which are "practically irrecoverable." The *Freeman's Journal* was evidently puzzled and alarmed by this unseasonable waving of the No Rent flag; at the same time, it could not venture to shock Irish opinion by contending that rents ought to be easily recovered. It took refuge in what a lawyer would call confession and avoidance. "True it is," said the organ of the middle-class home-rule party, "that the tenants cannot pay rent *now*. But if we get a native Parliament, the circumstances of the country will improve, and even the poorer tenants will be able to pay a moderate rent."

It is not impossible that land purchase may be opposed in the name of other classes who consider that their claim to be assisted by the State is as good as that of the Irish tenants. If we are to pledge the public credit in favor of Irishmen who wish to set up as peasant proprietors, why not in favor of Englishmen out of work? If the answer is that Irishmen have become a political danger which must be averted, the English workingman is shrewd enough to reply, "Then if *we* behave like the Irish peasantry, you'll think over the advisability of buying somebody out on our behalf?"

These objections to land purchase are formidable, and they may perhaps prevail with some who were inclined to look favorably on Mr. Giffen's scheme of expropriation. Difficulties on this point can only be met by showing that home rule offers the prospect of some benefit which will justify us in running a financial risk. What is the benefit to be? We cannot anticipate Mr. Gladstone's positive answer to this question; but there are advantages claimed for some other schemes of home rule which we may be tolerably certain his scheme will not endeavor to secure for us. In the first place, there will be no complete separation between British and Irish finance. It would in some ways be a gain to us if we were relieved from the necessity of raising, spending, or lending money in Ireland for the future. But to carry out this programme would involve administrative changes of great difficulty; it would also embarrass the question of land purchase by leaving us without any hold on our Irish debtor. Gentlemen at the Treasury say, "The thing is impossible"; and it is well known the Treasury has great influence with Mr. Gladstone.

It seems also most probable that the removal of the Parnellites from the House of Commons will not be one of the attractions of the Government plan. Mr. Morley, indeed, before he was in office, spoke in favor of this course; but the repeal of the Act of Union would point plainly to separation, and the British advocates of home rule are bent on showing that the scheme is to bring about a closer union between the two countries. It is very uncertain whether the Irish members wish to go, and they have some strong motives to insist on remaining. So long as they are with us, they can hold over us the threat of obstruction, and they may consider this a useful and even indispensable safeguard against oppression by the Imperial Parliament. Then, in the House of Commons they have the aid of men who would not care to sit in an Irish legislature. I wonder what Mr. Justin McCarthy would take to live in Dublin? If the Irish members remain, their position will be anomalous; they will interfere with our local affairs, while we shall be debarred from interfering with theirs. It has been suggested that Mr. Gladstone may meet this objection by admitting the Irish members to vote only on questions concerning the whole United Kingdom. If any such limitation is introduced, it will be as fatal to Mr. Gladstone's measure of home rule as the "gagging clauses" were to his Dublin University Bill of 1873. But it is impossible to believe that an experienced statesman will make the rash attempt to distinguish between one Parliamentary question and another. Mr. Gladstone is governing the Empire at this moment because the Irishmen voted for him on an amendment proposed in the interest of English and Scottish laborers. He cannot surely dream of proposing that Irish members may in future be shut out from a division on an English question, even if the division be one which affects the fate of a government.

I have endeavored to state the questions to which Mr. Gladstone will have to find an answer when he makes his long-expected statement. There are many politicians, Liberal and Conservative, who are not willing to decide absolutely against home rule; but at the same time they do not see their way out of the difficulties I have indicated, nor do they feel sure that Mr. Gladstone can find a way. Their doubts are treated as treasonable by some devout admirers of the Liberal leader, but the name of Gladstone is not sufficient to conjure away all our fears. There are even some significant symptoms of reaction against the personal influence of the Prime Minister. Some advanced Liberal journals have declared that this Government is founded on a mistake; that the party should not have gone into office until it had an Irish policy. Others again hold that this Parliament has no mandate to settle the question of home rule. It is curious that a Radical paper should bring up at this moment an incident almost forgotten by the admirers of Mr. Gladstone—his prompt, not to say hasty, recognition of the Confederate Government. It is suggested that he has given Mr. Parnell credit for having "formed a nation," just as he gave the same credit to Mr. Jefferson Davis, and that the ultimate result may be the same in both cases. The comparison is worth noting, but we must not be ready to accept a sinister omen. Whatever our differences with Ireland may be, we must at least endeavor to settle them without recourse to the arbitrament of war.

R.

TWO NOVELS BY PAUL BOURGET.

PARIS, March 23, 1886.

FRANCE is undergoing a curious revolution: it is fast becoming one of the greatest fields of what I might call the fiction industry. The word industry is not misplaced: there must be somewhere large factories where novels are made by the thousand, as there are factories of shoes and clothes. I confess that I am perpetually astonished when I pass before the shop-windows of the book-venders and see every week—I might almost say every day—a large array of new novels, with their catching titles, their yellow, pink, red, blue covers, with the illustrations which often adorn these covers, so as to make them more attractive. I confess having bought some of these books, merely on account of the cleverness of these title-illustrations. Alas! the outside was better than the inside, and I was not well rewarded for my little sacrifice. The fashion has set in not to make edition after edition, but to count the thousands of copies: you see on the title "fifth thousand," "sixth thousand," etc.; sometimes the numbers go much higher. There is a sort of mercantile spirit in this new literature: if a book does not sell rapidly, it disappears; it goes nobody knows where. Everything must be fresh and brilliant, as in a *magasin de nouveautés*. This eruption of novels marks a transformation in the public mind. I sometimes ask myself, What can be the intellectual and moral condition of the devotees of this new literature, of those who write these novels and of those who read them? Shall we pity more the former or the latter? The former have an excuse; they have perhaps a family—"J'ai quatre enfans à nourrir," as we read in one of Molière's plays. What can be the excuse for the latter? I am afraid that a moralist would be tempted to place the novel-reading mania with many others, such as the morphine or chloral mania. The systematic reader of novels needs to forget his own thoughts and troubles in the thoughts and troubles of imaginary persons; he needs an artificial sort of excitement; and this is probably the reason why the sensation novel supersedes by degrees the psychological and purely analytic novel.

The popular mind wants a somewhat coarse food; I have been conversing with some of the men who furnish novels to the penny papers which have the largest circulation. They are almost obliged to amuse their public with crimes and detectives. I should have thought that real crimes were sufficiently numerous and sufficiently interesting; but it seems they are not.

There is no disputing tastes: we must recognize hard facts, and must admit that France, which, even in my memory, was a very poor field for novel writers, has become most fruitful in this respect. If poor Balzac lived now, he would no longer struggle perpetually with creditors; the publishers would all be at his feet. There is not much in all this new literature which deserves the attention of the critic. The new novels are written for one day only; they are doomed to immediate oblivion, like newspaper articles. Here and there, in this chaos of trivial, obscene, dull, inarticulate literature, something more artistic emerges, as a fine flower blooms on a dunghill. My attention was first drawn to a writer called Paul Bourget, by the first number of a novel entitled 'Cruel Enigma,' which appeared in the *Revue Nouvelle*. It described the placid life of two ladies, poor and highly genteel, who were educating a young man, their son and nephew, with the most delicate and tender care. This début was charming; the description of this quiet home, this Eden of virtue, of respectability, of peace, in the midst of Paris, had real merit. To be sure, it reminded one of many passages in Balzac's 'Scènes de la vie de province,' for our great Balzac was admirable in these descriptions of humble and domestic lives: he knew how to place his pure figures in their *cadre*, and how to give a sort of life to this *cadre*. But it is not everybody who can make you think of Balzac, and I conceived at once a high opinion of the talent of M. Bourget.

I saw also at once how the drama would develop itself: how this tender, delicate, refined, but too feminine education of the young hero would ill prepare him for the temptations of life. I was not deceived; the young man falls under the influence of a bad woman, a married woman, and you can imagine the rest—the struggle between the pure affections and impure love, the hesitations, the victories, the defeats of the human will subjected to the action of conflicting forces. It is the old story of Hercules placed be-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

tween virtue and vice; it is, alas! the old story of the final and irreparable fall. This "cruel enigma" is no enigma at all: it is the common story. The work of long years of education, the teachings of ancestors, even the clearest possible vision of right and wrong, the consciousness of a great fault and of a great folly—all is vain. Man must meet his fate, and the punishment comes at once, in the diminution of the will, in the impotence of liberty, in the degradation of all the faculties which represent the divine in man. This book, 'Cruel Enigma,' is not a bad analysis of the struggle which too often ends in the subjugation of a fine nature to a coarse, common, and bad nature. It is artistic in so far as it is analytic; it is inartistic in so far as the mind is never kept in suspense, and that you can see at once how it will end. The young man who represents Hercules between virtue and vice, is not enough of a Hercules; he is too weak, you can expect nothing of him. He is not very interesting; you cannot help despising him almost as soon as you know him.

The last novel by M. Paul Bourget, 'Un Crime d'Amour,' is an extraordinary mixture of qualities and defects. It is, like 'Cruel Enigma,' essentially analytic, and in some parts the analysis of human passion becomes powerful, as it is dramatized and not purely descriptive. It is impossible for me to imagine why, having chosen the subject of this 'Crime d'Amour,' M. Bourget has wilfully treated it with a sort of coarseness, I might almost say, of brutality, which is evidently not natural to him, which is obviously forced and artificial. The *dramatis personæ* are always few in number in his novels. In this case, as usual, we have "le mari; la femme et l'amant." The husband is a good, honest, hard-working, innocent, and unsuspecting engineer; the wife is a romantic and dissatisfied person who has made a marriage "de raison." She falls in love with a friend of her husband, a man of the world, idle, clever, for whom love is an occupation more than a passion. The woman does not understand him; she loves in him the man of her dreams; she is blind and becomes guilty. She sacrifices to a dream, to a chimera, her duty, her honor, her peace of mind; and her sacrifice is vain. The two criminals are punished in a different way; the woman, by the gradual discovery of her lover's true character. She finds out in the end that her sacrifice has not been even understood. Her lover does not believe that he is her first lover; he has heard that she had in past times shown some preference for a certain M. de Varades; in reality Hélène (that is the name of our heroine) repulsed with contempt the advances of M. de Varades. But Armand (our lover) thinks that M. de Varades has obtained as much of Hélène as he has himself; and if he has, why have not others? He is extremely ingenious in discovering in all the arts, the forced precautions, the feminine coquetries, of Hélène the fruits of experience; he degrades constantly in his own mind the woman who was to be his idol; he is a sort of moral iconoclast. He sees a mere episode, a mere adventure, in what seems to Hélène the object and foundation of her whole existence. The more she believes in him, the less he believes in her. Her passion has a sort of repellant effect; they do not understand each other. She has given everything to him, and he does not know it or comprehend it. He has been always looking, during the idle years of his youth and of his manhood, for real love—for an absolute, boundless, unselfish affection; he has it, and does not know it. His perverse egoism makes him blind and poisons everything for him. He is not happy; and she is not happy, at first because she knows that she is a bad wife and a bad mother, and afterwards because she discovers that her sacrifice has been vain, and that the man for whom she has done so much makes no difference between her and the women who take lover after lover, and who have made for themselves, as the poet says, "un front qui ne rougit jamais."

She becomes absolutely wild with anger and shame when Armand reproaches her with M. de Varades; and chance will have it that this Varades, whom she has not seen for years, whom she had dismissed from her sight, is thrown again in her path. Here Bourget has copied an incident in the 'Petite Comtesse' of Octave Feuillet. The "petite Comtesse," unjustly accused by the man she loves of having loved another, throws herself in the arms of the latter; she becomes guilty because she has been thought guilty. The "petite Comtesse" punishes herself by death for this moment of folly. In the novels of M. Bourget things are not so tragical. Hélène throws herself in the arms of the astonished Varades; and she then can say to Armand: "Now you can despise me, now I am despicable, but I was not so when you thought I was." This confession convinces Armand at the same time of the sincerity of Hélène and of his own folly; he knows what he has lost, and is conscious of having lost it by his own fault.

I do not like this episode of Varades. I can hardly understand a woman behaving like a child who has been punished unjustly for doing a thing, and who feels that he must do it. Hélène, as M. Bourget depicts her at first, is a little above this puerility. The conclusion of M. Bourget may be moral, if he wished to show all the tortures of mind of a married woman and her lover: but the details of his work are sometimes coarse, sometimes even indecent, and the impression which is produced by it cannot be said to be very healthy. There is something morbid in his delineation of character, in his views of human existence; something unnatural and illogical in his conception of man and of woman.

Correspondence.

IMPORTATIONS OF CARPET WOOL.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: The late decision of the Secretary on the question of "scoured" Donskoi wool would seem to relieve me of the necessity of replying to the letter of the wool-growers' attorneys, published in your last issue. But as they have given the figures on which they have based their previous charges, I may be permitted to point out the fallacy of relying on undigested official figures in matters of this kind. In doing this your correspondents show an increase of importations of Russian carpet wools from 3,322,700 pounds in the fiscal year 1879-80 to 16,151,392 pounds in 1884-85. Now, the fact is, that in 1879-80 one single house in New York alone imported from Russian ports in the Black Sea upwards of 8,000,000 pounds of washed Donskoi wools. The apparent discrepancy arises simply from the circumstance that before 1881 the system of shipping on through-bills of lading from the Black Sea was comparatively unknown. The bulk of the shipments were made to English ports, arrived here under English bills of lading, and were officially recorded as importations from England. I have not the means at hand for verifying the official figures quoted to prove the great increase of importations of carpet wools in the calendar year 1884 over those of 1885; but your correspondents are certainly wrong in ascribing such increase to the alleged evasion of duty, since it is a fact well known and easily proved, that no washed Donskoi wool has ever before this year been classed as scoured, and that in the years 1878, 1879, 1883, and 1884 all, or nearly all, white washed Donskoi wools have been admitted here at the lower rate of duty.

Gustav Schwab.

New York, April 3, 1886.

THE TEST OF NUMBERS FOR COLLEGES.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: The reply which Mr. Bourne has made in No. 1080 of the *Nation* to Mr. Page's criticisms of the Yale policy goes to show that the test of numbers is misleading. To those who are familiar with the inside workings of a college it is evident that this test is also positively mischievous.

The method of instruction in classes requires that a minimum of work shall be demanded of all students, in order to make the class a unit. If this standard is not maintained, the lower half of the class falls so far away from the upper that instruction cannot be given to both together, and one or the other must be neglected. Moreover, the effect of stimulating teaching is constantly to raise men from the indifferent to the working section, and the best results cannot be obtained, even among the best students, unless the college machine is constantly eliminating from the lower end of a class the men who will not work.

The test of numbers, when it is applied to the work of a college faculty, puts a clog upon this machinery and has sometimes stopped it entirely. Into every vote upon the question of dropping a man, the test of numbers enters as a disturbing element. The President, especially if he is an ambitious man, anxious for the success of his administration according to the standards of the public, becomes *ex officio* the defender of all low-stand students; if he is at the same time a scholar, he will attempt to ride the two horses at once, and more than one of the difficulties into which college presidents have lately seemed prone to fall has come from this cause.

The introduction of this test just now is especially dangerous, not only to Yale, but to all good colleges. For there are in the country a couple of dozen preparatory schools in which the work of the Freshman year could be thoroughly well done, and perhaps a dozen colleges which are capable of advancing their standard a single year. It looks as if the next step in the progress of higher education would be made by raising the standard of admission. But right in the way of this stands the test of numbers, suggesting to trustees that such an advance will lessen the attendance; and a college president must be a courageous man if he does not use his veto to prevent a move which seems to threaten disaster to his administration.

The method, too, in which the New York alumni have for some years been trying to apply this test to Yale College deserves notice. The normally developed American college passes through three stages: first, it consists of a board of trustees, served by a president and by a number of teachers; second, the president absorbs the powers of the board of trustees over the internal matters, and the college becomes a one-man affair; third, the college is (not has) a faculty of instruction, whose leading member is the president, and the trustees attend to the funds and to little else. These three stages are about as marked as the oligarchy, tyranny, and democracy of a Greek city constitution.

Yale and most of the New England colleges have reached the third stage: the trustees have nothing to do with elective courses, or with the standard of scholarship, and but little with the appointment of new professors. Their work is confined mostly to the management of the funds. The criticisms of the New York alumni, therefore, while they have been directed ostensi-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

bly against the Corporation, bear, in fact, chiefly upon the Faculty. They desire to see changes in the Corporation, in order that the new Corporation may become more completely the governing body, and may change the courses of instruction. They wish to take the management of internal affairs out of the hands of the Faculty and put it into the hands of the trustees—that is, to bring the College back from the third stage to the first. Already a trustee of the New York party has attempted to instruct the mathematical professors about the functions and arrangement of an astronomical observatory.

Such a revolution in the college constitution will have two results. It will lower the *morale* of the Faculty and render a position there less attractive to men of independence and of first-rate ability, precisely as the application of rigid denominational tests lowers the value of a professorship in some colleges. Upon the Faculty thus weakened a corporation of the Young Yale spirit will bring the test of numbers to bear with double force, and the scholarship will go down.

And, second, the revolution will result in a long period of disturbance and struggle at Yale, the end of which will inevitably be the recovery by the Faculty of the position which they now occupy. They have the same advantage (if they will pardon the comparison) which the ward politician has over the good citizen in the primaries—the advantage of being always on hand.

Mr. Page has written two forcible letters, but he is mistaken, I think, in saying that "results are the ultimate criterion by which all policies are judged," when by "results" he means number of students; and equally mistaken, therefore, in supposing that his figures present "the shameful history of Yale's decline." He seems to me mistaken, also, in the tone of his letters, which is that of a stern reformer letting the light and fresh air of public opinion in upon a roomful of selfish and dim-eyed pedants. On the contrary, he is applying to the affairs of a great college, and to the work of an able body of men, a test which in crudity and mischievousness is second only to the bricks-and-mortar standard. Some of Mr. Page's references to Dr. Porter would be hardly pardonable in a letter the facts and reasoning of which were without a flaw.

Very respectfully, M.

JOHN HARVARD AND HIS ANCESTRY: NOTES ON MR. WATERS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: Drawing from the winter season in which I write an illustration of my meaning, I may say that when once the ice has been broken it is easy to enlarge the breach. Mr. Waters, whose successful labors I fully appreciate and have elsewhere acknowledged, will receive in the spirit in which they are offered these remarks on some portions of his article in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* for July, 1885 (vol xxxix, pp. 265-284).

Thomas Harvard, in his will (p. 277), speaks of certain property which his brother and he jointly held by lease from the Hospital of St. Katharine, near the Tower, and the lease was doubtless granted between July, 1635, and July, 1636. If the lease could be found, it could scarcely fail to show where John Harvard was residing at the time, and would thus lead the way to what he was doing between 1631, when he left Cambridge, and 1637, when he went to New England. Accordingly, by the kind intervention of the Rev. I. S. Blunt, the present Master of St. Katharine's Hospital, search was made by Mr. I. G. Rugg, the Assistant Chapter Clerk, among the muniments of the hospital, the substance of whose report deserves to be preserved, and is here placed on record.

The Registry Books of St. Katharine's—that is to say, books containing copies of the leases granted by the hospital, and of other documents—do not go further back than 1681, while the Chapter Minute Books extend only to 1698, and the Receivers' Accounts only to 1819. There is, however, in the Chapter Safe a book of Constables' Accounts from 1599 to 1706, which appears to contain a record of certain courts leet held for the Manor of St. Katharine—that is, for the ancient precincts; but Mr. Rugg was unable to find any mention of the name Harvard, or any clue whatever. "The property held by the Harvards doubtless formed part of the original precincts, and it may be just possible that when the sale was made to the London and St. Katharine Docks Company, about 1836, the then existing and expired leases might have been handed over to the purchasers." In the Chapter Safe are also old leases, expired and cancelled, some hundreds in number, and it is possible that an inspection might disclose John Harvard's place of residence, "but such inspection means time, and consequently money, and the question arises, 'Is the game worth the candle?'" Inquiry at the office of the Docks Company met with a courteous reception, and the reply that the index to their deeds threw no light on the matter.

Grant of probate of Thomas Harvard's will was made to one only of the two executors appointed, power being reserved of making the like grant to the other, who was John Harvard, the founder, "when he should come to seek it." This was the set form invariably followed in such a case, and cannot, therefore, be taken as implying anything beyond what appears on its face, namely, that the other executor did not then prove. Let me note in the certificate of probate the omission of "uno" before "executorū," and also the error of "petitur" for "petitum" (p. 280).

On pages 280-1, Mr. Waters gives various particulars respecting the Harvard family, to which I am able to make an addition, so far as concerns Thomas Harvard, brother of the founder. The records of the Clothworkers' Company show that Thomas Harvarde bound himself apprentice to William Coxe for eight years from June 24, 1627. I give the entry, extending the abbreviated Latin of the original:

"Thomas Harvarde filius Roberti nuper de Southwarke in comitatu Surrey lanii defuncti posuit seipsum Apprenticium Willielmo Coxe Civi & Clothworker London par Octo Annos A festo Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptistæ præterito Datum undecimo Septembris 1627" (Apprentice Book, 1606-1641).

The apprentice, as Thomas Haward, was admitted to the freedom in 1634, before his eight years had expired, the explanation being that he had fulfilled the term of seven years, which was all that the use and custom of the city of London required.

On page 284 we read of John Sadler, father of John Harvard's wife: "he was settled at Ringmer, where I find he was inducted 12 October, 1626." Mr. Waters appears here to be mixing up the two separate acts of induction and institution, because the latter is the act of which the Episcopal Register preserves the record, there being no need of anything further because, institution having been given, induction follows as a matter of course. By institution, the bishop commits to the clerk presented to him the cure of the souls of the parishioners; by induction, the clerk is merely put into formal possession, on the spot, of the temporalities which of right are his.

Speaking of John Sadler, brother of John Harvard's wife, as Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, Mr. Waters says (p. 284) he "was admitted 1650 and deprived at the Restoration." This statement can only have been made in ignorance of the facts, which may be stated in few words. The founder of the College had provided that the Master should be appointed by the owner for the time being of a certain mansion-house and estate; and Sadler, not having been so appointed, had no right to the office, nor can it be said that he was deprived when he was forced to give place to the rightful head. The truth is, the boot belongs to the other leg. Dr. Rainbow was appointed Master in 1642, and was reinstated in 1660, Sadler having been intruded in 1650. I believe that Sadler is regarded by the College in the light in which my language will indicate, and I am told that an account of him is to be found in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 91. 2, p. 567. Z.

Cambridge, Eng., March 22, 1886.

SUICIDE IN INSURANCE LAW.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: In your last issue, you announce a recent decision of Judge Dyer in Chicago, to the effect that the self-killing of an insane man is not suicide within the meaning of that term in insurance law. To those of your readers who prefer, with Coke, "petere fontes quam sectari rivulos," it may be interesting to note that the decision in question is but a repetition of the doctrine, and to some extent, of the words, contained in the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States in Manhattan Life Insurance Company vs. Broughton, reported in 109 United States and decided in November, 1883. The head note of Mr. Justice Gray in the latter case is this: "A self-killing by an insane person, understanding the physical nature and consequences of his act, but not its moral aspect, is not death by suicide within the meaning of a condition in a policy of insurance upon his life, that the policy shall be void in case he shall die by suicide."

Joseph C. France.

Baltimore, April 3, 1886.

PROTESTANT EXCOMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of The Nation:

WHAT BISHOP FOWLER SIGNED.

Editor The Voice.—I see in a late issue of *The Voice* that Bishop Fowler is reported to have signed a petition for High License. I would like to know if it is a fact. Have you evidence to prove it? I am a minister of the M. E. Church, and I am telling my members if they sign a petition for license they will have to leave the church. I hope it is only a rumor. Rev. S. Dimmick,
Kinzua, Pa.

Sir: This letter was printed in the Prohibition organ, *The Voice*, with approval. Can anybody point out any difference in principle between the act of Rev. Mr. Dimmick in excommunicating members of his church, and the abuse of priestly authority which is attributed to the priests of the Roman Catholic Church? A.

March 29, 1886.

A LIQUOR-DEALER DEFINED.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: In a number of articles you have recently used the word "liquor-dealer," as, for instance, on page 249, first column, in your issue of the 25th inst., you say: "No party would venture to put a liquor-dealer on a ticket which was to be submitted to the whole city for election."

As no harm can arise from making your positions perfectly clear to your readers, will you be kind enough to state precisely what you mean by a "liquor-dealer"?—Very respectfully yours,

Charles McK. Leoser.

University Club, Madison Square, March 30, 1886.

[A retail vender of rum, gin, whiskey, brandy, porter, ale, or beer, across a bar, or counter,

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

or wooden partition of some kind, for cash or on credit.—Ed. Nation.]

A PEN SLIP.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: From a medical point of view I read with much pleasure and profit Dr. T. M. Coan's interesting article in the *Nation* of March 25, on the "Curative Properties of the Waters of La Bourboule"; and at the same time my knowledge of Biblical history was increased to the extent of learning that it was Ahab of old who insisted on choosing his own Abana and Pharpar.

Medicus.

Lemont, Pa., March 27, 1886.

[We will not say that Dr. Coan's studies, like those of the physician in the 'Canterbury Tales,' "have been but litel on the Bible," but when he wrote Ahab for Naaman it was doubtless because those studies have occupied him with mineral waters of more recent vogue than those of Abana and Pharpar, which are not now entered in the manuals of Braun, Hellft, Le Pileur, Trousseau, or of any other modern balneographer known to us.—Ed. Nation.]

Notes.

The publishers' spring announcements invite our customary summary selection. (New York) *D. Appleton & Co.*:—'Songs and Ballads of the Southern People,' collected by Frank Moore; 'The Rear-Guard of the Revolution,' by Edmund Kirke; 'Tales of Eccentric Life,' by Dr. W. A. Hammond, and his daughter, Mrs. Clara Lanza; 'The Development of the Roman Constitution,' by Ambrose Tighe; 'Comparative Literature,' by Prof. A. M. Posnett; and 'Shaftesbury,' by H. D. Traill. *A. C. Armstrong & Son*:—'The Last Days of the Consulate,' translated from the French of Fauriel. *Cassell & Co.*:—The second volume of Henry W. Lucy's 'Diary of Two Parliaments'; 'Fresh Water Fishes of Europe,' by Professor H. G. Seeley, of King's College, London, illustrated; 'Manual of Greek Archæology,' by Maxime Collignon; 'The Education of the Artist,' by Ernest Chesneau; and 'Representative Poems by Living Poets,' selected by themselves and edited by George Parsons Lathrop. *Harper & Bros.*:—Richard J. Cleveland's 'Narrative of Voyages and Commercial Enterprises,' a work a quarter of a century old, now edited by the author's son, H. W. S. Cleveland; 'Economics for the People,' by R. R. Bowker; 'George Eliot and her Heroines,' by Abba Goold Woolson; 'Mary and Martha, the Mother and Wife of Washington,' by Benson J. Lossing; and 'Memoirs of Mrs. Edward Livingston,' by Louisa Livingston Hunt. *Henry Holt & Co.*:—The second volume of Doyle's 'English Colonies in America,' and of Fyffe's 'History of Modern Europe,' respectively; 'Cyclopædia of Greek and Latin Literature,' by Thomas Sargeant Perry; and 'Whom God Hath Joined,' a novel which appeared serially in the *Catholic World*, by Mrs. Elizabeth G. Martin. *Macmillan & Co.*:—'The Letters of Thomas Carlyle,' edited by Professor C. E. Norton; and a preliminary 'Life of Peter Cooper.' *W. W. Munsell & Co.*:—'History of New Haven, Conn.,' by the Rev. E. E. Atwater—a subscription book, 4to, illustrated. *Publishers' Weekly*:—'Copyright; its Law and its Literature,' by R. R. Bowker and Thorvald Solberg. *G. P. Putnam's Sons*:—'The Political History of Canada,' by Goldwin Smith; 'The Greeks of To-day,' by Charles K. Tuckerman; 'Documents Illustrative of American History, 1606-1863,' edited by Howard W. Preston; and 'History of the United States from 1840 down to the close of 1885,' by Prof. Alexander Johnston. *Charles Scribner's Sons*:—The two latest volumes of Mommsen's 'History of Rome,' translated by Dr. W. P. Dickson; 'Persia, the Land of the Imams,' by the Rev. James Bassett; 'The Epic Songs of Russia,' translated from the original by Miss Isabel F. Hapgood, with an introduction by Prof. F. J. Child; an American edition of Fischer's 'History of Modern Philosophy'; and a translation of Ribot's 'Contemporary German Psychology.' *Scribner & Welford*:—'Letters of George Sand,' translated and edited by R. L. de Beaufort, with six portraits; Johnson's 'Rasselas'; Goldsmith's 'Vicar of Wakefield,' in facsimile of the first edition of 1766, with preface by Austin Dobson, and a complete bibliography; Hatton's 'North Borneo,' and Johnston's 'Kilima-Njaro Expedition.'

(Boston) *Estes & Lauriat*:—A fine library edition of George Eliot's works, 500 copies, with original painter-etchings and photo-etchings by American artists; and Rossetti's 'Complete Poetical Works of Shelley,' in three volumes, a special edition of fifty copies. *Houghton, Mifflin & Co.*:—Prof. Josiah Royce's 'History of California; and 'Hamlet's Note-book,' by W. D. O'Connor. *Lee & Shepard*:—'Down the West Branch; or, Camps and Tramps around Katahdin,' by Capt. C. A. J. Farrar; 'A Winter in Central America,' by Helen C. Sanborn; and 'Forgotten Meanings, or, An Hour with a Dictionary,' by Alfred Waites. *Roberts Bros.*:—'Hours with German Authors,' by the Rev. F. H. Hedge. *Ticknor & Co.*:—'The Imperial Island; or, England's Chronicle in Stone,' a collection of historic buildings, by James F. Hunnewell; and 'Italian Poets,' by W. D. Howells.

(Philadelphia) *J. B. Lippincott Co.*:—'Othello,' the sixth volume in Mr. Horace Howard Furness's Variorum Edition.

(Cincinnati) *J. Fletcher Brennan & Co.*:—'Autobiography of Cassius M. Clay, of Kentucky,' a subscription book.

(Providence, R. I.) *J. A. & R. A. Reid*:—'The Providence Plantations for Two Hundred and Fifty Years,' compiled by Welcome A. Greene, assisted by the Rev. William H. Fish.

The second volume of Messrs. Matthews and Hutton's 'Actors and Actresses' (Cassell & Co.) will appear before the end of the month. It covers the period of the Kembles, and contains sketches of Mrs. Siddons, John Philip Kemble, and Charles Kemble, by Mr. Matthews, while Mr. Hutton has considered the careers of Charles Lamb's favorites, Liston and Munden, as well as those of Miss O'Neill, George Frederick Cooke, and Master Betty. Mr. Archer has written about Mrs. Jordan and Elliston—another of Lamb's comic actors; Mr. R. W. Lowe about Miss Farren, who became the Countess of Derby; Mr. H. G. Paine and Mr. H. G. Henderson have sketched Charles Mathews (the elder) and Charles Mayne Young; and Mr. Joseph N. Ireland, the historian of the New York stage, has told the life of Thomas Abthorpe Cooper.

Mr. Walter Herries Pollock has abandoned his intention of writing the life of David Garrick for Mr. Lang's series of 'English Worthies,' and instead he will write the life of Sir Francis Drake.

Mr. Alfred Ainger, who has done much for the memory of Charles Lamb, has now edited, with his usual learning, tact, and skill, 'Mrs. Leicester's School, and Other Writings in Prose and Verse' (A. C. Armstrong & Son), in which he has gathered all of Lamb's writing which he has deemed worthy of preservation, and which had not already been included in his two earlier volumes, the 'Essays of Elia' and the 'Plays and Poems.' Together the three volumes give us a Lamb almost complete (and we wholly approve of Mr. Ainger's few omissions), carefully and sympathetically annotated, and well printed: it seems to us quite the best edition of Lamb now to be had. We observe with much pleasure that Mr. Ainger purposes to extend it still further by the collections of Lamb's letters, no wholly satisfactory edition of which has been made.

The huge volume of 'Historical Lights' (Funk & Wagnalls), compiled by the Rev. Chas. E. Little, and consisting of 6,000 alphabetical quotations from standard histories and biographies, has avowedly a practical object, viz., to assist in the preparation of addresses, essays, sermons, newspaper articles, etc. This dictionary has the merit of textual quotation from the sources, and is furnished with a general index and abundant cross-references. The execution of the plan is occasionally grotesque, as when we meet with this scrupulous use of brackets and inverted commas: "3910.—ONE, power of. *Christian*. "The Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge," and also "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts" [were both established about 1698, mainly by one admirable man, Dr. Thomas Bray].—Knight's Eng., vol. v, ch. 13, p. 206." The odd heading, "One," is matched by "Depreciation, Financial," from which we warn any Congressman who seeks to garnish a speech on panics; it relates that the managers of the Plymouth Colony had in four years expended $34,000, and that there was neither profit nor the hope of any. Whether it would occur to any orator or essayist to imagine headings like "Follower, An Inferior"; or "Leader, Unnatural," we cannot judge; but we dare say this volume will be deemed a prize by the intellects to which it caters.

Two of the late Mrs. Helen Jackson's stories, published originally in the "No Name Series," viz: 'Hetty's Strange Story,' and 'Mercy Philbrick's Choice,' have been reissued in uniform style by Roberts Bros.

The admirers of George Meredith will rejoice in the newly begun uniform English edition of his nine stories, bearing the American imprint of Roberts Bros. 'Richard Feverel' and 'Evan Harrington' are before us, and are to be praised as manufactured articles.

Mr. Scott Keltie, in his *Statesman's Year-Book* (Macmillan), follows the *Almanach de Gotha* in admitting the Congo Free State to the sisterhood of nations; and he also now for the first time gives a distinct place to the Straits Settlement and to Fiji. We notice that in the list of Presidents of the United States Mr. Cleveland is credited to New Jersey, his native State, instead of to New York, his adopted State and his political belonging *par excellence*. There would be no objection to this if the table were made up on that principle, but it is not. Virginia would then appear as the mother of seven Presidents, and Ohio's three (Grant, Hayes, Garfield) would show an immediate succession from that State for four terms, like Virginia's succession for six in the case of Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe. In this table, by the way, we ought to find General Grant's death recorded; and in the list of non-official publications at the end, Dr. von Hoist's History should be allowed four volumes instead of two.

A good deal more than the commonplaces of obituary literature will be found in the volume of 'Letters and Addresses in Memory of Winfield Scott Hancock,' published with liberal margins and with a portrait and many autographic facsimiles, by G. P. Putnam's Sons, for the Military Service Institution. Not only have we the more or less frank estimate of General Hancock by eminent brother officers and some civilians in high station, but a considerable fund of anecdote and reminiscence is amassed for the biographer of this distinguished soldier of the civil war.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

E. P. Dutton & Co.'s "Élite Monthly Menu Cards" are certainly praiseworthy as tending to diminish the thought given perforce to what we shall eat and what we shall drink. They are mere lists of dishes, etc., but are far handier than the ordinary index to receipt books. The cards have a neat Russia-leather frame.

A literary curiosity is reproduced in Mr. S. S. Rider's *Book-Notes* (Providence) for March 27—"Old Grimes," as first printed in the Providence *Gazette* for January 16, 1822. Like more famous and more elevated poetry, these verses of the late Albert G. Greene have suffered some modifications in being copied and recopied.

The frontispiece of the April *Book-Buyer* is a very effective portrait of Dr. George P. Fisher, and the chief illustrated article is the third of Mr. Laurence Hutton's papers on noted American Bookplates, in which we find not a few playful strokes of humor, not to be expected in an essay on a dry subject. Among the announcements are two new American novels to be published this month by Charles Scribner's Sons, 'The End of the Story,' by Mr. H. C. Bunner, and 'A Desperate Chance,' by Lieut. J. D. J. Kelley.

A very graphic description of the slides on Tripyramid Mountain, N. H., with some observations on land-slides in general, by the Rev. Alford A. Butler, forms the opening paper in *Appalachia* for March (Boston: W. B. Clarke & Carruth). A subject of growing interest, 'Earthquakes in New England,' for which scientific data are wanting, is briefly set forth by Mr. William Morris Davis, with the aid of a map showing the areas most visited in 1872-1884. Professor Edward C. Pickering gives a list of accurate Appalachian Mountain heights (New England and New York), and there are numerous reports of mountain exploration and adventure. Nor should we omit to mention the map of the Middlesex (Mass.) Fells, a proposed preserve, whose roads and paths are here delineated for the first time, by Mr. R. B. Lawrence.

In the April number of the *Academy* (Syracuse, N. Y.: George A. Bacon), the editor bids good-by to the practice of noticing school-books by writers whose names are signed to their reviews. In hardly any branch of literary criticism, in fact, is anonymous reviewing so imperative, if independence—of publishers and of favoritism—is to be attained. This change is one more mark of the discretion with which this periodical is conducted. The *Academy*, in the line of its main object, is collecting statistics regarding the study of Greek in this country.

The threatened disuse of the London Charterhouse as a home for pensioners endangers the preservation of the wonderfully interesting old buildings themselves. To arouse public opinion against such a consummation is the aim of an interesting article in the *English Illustrated Magazine* for April. Of the accompanying cuts, that representing the Charterhouse as Sutton left it is the most valuable, for a fine series of autotype views of this architectural monument are among the publications of the Society for Photographing Relics of Old London.

Mr. Henry Harrisse returns, in *Le Livre* for March, to the subject of the plundered library of Fernando Columbus, with the prime object of discussing the hitherto unknown first edition of one of the most curious works of Clément Marot—a translation of the sixth psalm of David. This stolen rarity, in four pages small octavo, has no date, but bears an inscription, in Fernando's hand, of having been bought in 1525. By the aid of the internal evidence and much historical lore, Mr. Harrisse acutely discovers the true date of Marot's becoming valet de chambre to Francis I., by fixing the date of the death of his father, whom he succeeded; shows, therefore, that 1525 must be an error (probably for 1535); and that the date of this first essay at translation is earlier than 1533. Among the announcements in *Le Livre* is the completion of volume i. (A. B.) of M. Paul Guérin's 'Dictionnaire des Dictionnaires.' Among the reviews is that of M. Ambroise Tardieu's 'Dictionnaire iconographique des Parisiens,' being a general list of natives of Paris of whom engraved or lithographed portraits exist, with a biographical sketch of each of the 3,000 names cited, and some rare portraits reproduced by photogravure. M. Tardieu in reality catalogues his own incomparable collection, and is engaged by way of recreation on a biographical dictionary of Parisians either celebrated or worthy of remembrance—some 7,000 of them. This work is about three-quarters done. His example may be held up to any rich American of civic pride whose leisure exceeds his capacity to turn it to useful account.

Polybiblion announces that the well-known writer on old French, M. Frédéric Godefroy, is going to undertake, through Hachette, a 'Répertoire Universel de la Langue Française écrite et parlée,' comprising "all the words and all the dialectic or orthographic forms of words from the beginning to our time, with an indication of their age"; the most important terms of the provincial patois (those of the south of France excepted), including the Walloon, those of Switzerland, Canada, Isle of Bourbon, Île de France, and Martinique; the nomenclature and explanation of the chief proper names, personal and of places, found in ancient texts; and a grammatical sketch, with the general laws of the formation of French vocables.

The first volume of Victor Hugo's posthumous works was announced to appear on the 30th of March, under the title 'Théâtre en liberté.' It contains, besides the prologue, two comedies, "La Grand' Mère" and "Mangeront-ils?" one drama in five scenes, "L'Épée"; a *fantaisie*, "La Forêt mouillée," and three *saynètes*. The beginning of a preface was found among the papers of the poet, in which he says that "La Grand' Mère" alone could be presented on the stage. The other plays would be possible only in the "ideal theatre that every one has in his mind."

'Les grands Maîtres du xviie siècle' (Paris; Lecène & Oudin) is a series of literary and dramatic studies on thirteen authors of the seventeenth century, beginning with Corneille and ending with Saint-Simon. This book is illustrated, not too well, with portraits. The author, M. Émile Faguet, dwells at length upon only a few of the most important works of each writer. His general plan is to give briefly the life, then to speak of the method, the character, the philosophical or poetical theories of his author. He then, almost invariably, closes with an excellent appreciation of the literary merits of his style, explaining briefly what is peculiar in his language, analyzing with a fine critical sense his process of composition. His chapters on La Bruyère are particularly interesting. 'Les grands Maîtres' is evidently a condensation of the teaching of M. Faguet, who is one of the first ready with a work which meets the demands of the new official requirements for secondary education in France. He had only to abridge his larger work for his school edition, 'Notices littéraires sur les Auteurs français' (Lecène & Oudin), adding, however, a few pages on Voltaire and Montaigne. His 'Recueil de Textes' is a companion volume, containing three classic plays in full and other extracts, as prescribed by the new programme of studies.

The Paris papers announce the death of the very clever and prolific writer, "P.-J. Stahl," who, under his real name, Pierre-Jules Hetzel, was a very successful and enterprising bookseller and publisher. His memory ought to be dear to the many persons who, in their younger days, have handled the profusely illustrated books which he has published. In connection with M. Jean Macé he founded and conducted the excellent *Magazin d'Éducation et de Récréation*, which since 1864 has held the first rank among French magazines for the young. It is in this that the greater part of the stories of M. Jules Verne appeared and continue to appear before they are published in volumes. Hetzel (or rather Stahl, for he will continue to be known under that name as an author) was more than a writer for the young. He was a humorist and a fine moralist, who, in the words of M. Émile Montégut, combined "German sentiment with French wit." Two of his most important publications were 'Le Diable à Paris' and 'Les Animaux peints par eux-mêmes.' His best work, a masterpiece in the judgment of Sainte-Beuve, was 'Les Amours d'un Notaire.' Hetzel at one period of his life became much involved in politics, but after his exile in 1851 he devoted himself exclusively to his literary work and to his duties as a publisher. He was seventy-two years of age at the time of his death.

A study of the list of members of the new Weimar Goethe-Gesellschaft (see *Nation*, No. 1079) suggests one or two reflections. Berlin heads the list with 257. Putting Weimar aside, for obvious reasons, we count 53 in Halle, 59 in Hamburg, and only 56 in Leipzig. Certainly 53 is a good showing for Halle, and 59 for so materialistic a city as Hamburg. But the comparison between Berlin and Leipzig is not favorable to the latter. And what shall we say of Dresden, with its 36? Or of wealthy Frankfort, Goethe's first home, with only 37? America "shines" with 6!

The American Historical Association will hold its third meeting at Washington, on April 27-29, in the large lecture-hall of the Columbian University. The President, Mr. George Bancroft, will give the opening address. Reduced rates are offered to members by the proprietors of the Ebbitt House, corner of F and Fourteenth Streets.

—The *Century* War Papers for April all relate to the cruise of the Confederate ship *Alabama* and her final combat with the *Kearsarge*. The first is the story of the *Alabama's* outfit and cruising by Mr. P. D. Haywood, "one of the crew," and who was an English sailor enlisted to serve before the mast. It seems to be an impartial, and is certainly a very interesting, account of life on board the cruiser, of the character and discipline of the crew, and of the fight in which she was destroyed. It gives the "inside view," not from the standpoint of an officer or one who has a theory to sustain, but from that of a man who had satisfied his spirit of youthful adventure in serving on the ship, and has no motive but to tell frankly what he remembers of that which he saw. The other papers are from the executive officer of the *Alabama*, and one of the surgeons of the *Kearsarge*. They are clear narratives of the naval battle more than of the history of the vessels, though Captain Kell gives also a sketch of the *Alabama's* cruise. The only point of real disagreement is with regard to the question whether the *Kearsarge* fired upon the *Alabama* after the latter had struck her flag. Surgeon Browne explicitly declares that the *Alabama* reopened fire after the flag had been hauled down, and that this made necessary a further discharge of cannon by the *Kearsarge*, when a white flag and a signal of distress were both shown, the *Alabama* being in a sinking condition. The Confederate officer insists that no renewal of firing by the *Alabama* was ordered or made. The character of the officers of the victorious ship is the best evidence that they would not knowingly injure an enemy who had surrendered, even though they had been accustomed to consider that enemy as little less than a corsair. The portraits of

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Winslow and Semmes, and of the executive officers of the ships, Thornton and Kell, with others of the subordinates, are noteworthy additions to the *Century's* gallery of war worthies, and the naval scenes are good examples of spirited illustration.

—The *Southern Bivouac* for April has a second article by Mr. Durrett upon the Kentucky Resolutions of 1798 and 1799, in which, noting the difference between the resolutions of 1798 as they passed the Legislature, and the draft by Jefferson, the point is made that Kentucky was never committed to the right of nullification by a single State, and that even in the resolution of 1799 it was nullification by the joint action of the States which was asserted to be the remedy for alleged violations of the Constitution by Congress. No one has now any interest in giving to those famous resolutions a meaning not fairly implied in their words interpreted in the light of the situation. Since the nationality of the Government is now admitted to be established, and the alleged rights of secession and nullification to be non-existent, it is only a question of history and of logic whether this result be the decision of war or of a proper interpretation of the Constitution. We think the candid reader of the Resolutions of 1798 and of the arguments of Mr. Breckenridge by which he supported them, will feel that the softening of the conclusion from Jefferson's language was a matter of policy and not of logic Mr. Breckenridge said in the speech which Mr. Durrett reprints, "If upon the representations of the States from whom they [Congress] derive their powers they should nevertheless attempt to enforce them [the obnoxious laws], I hesitate not to declare as my opinion that it is then the right and duty of the several States to nullify those acts and to protect their citizens from their operation." This is precisely the doctrine enunciated in 1799, and which was in the original eighth resolution as Jefferson drew it. To argue, as the writer does, that the right and duty of the *several* States to nullify acts of Congress, only means the right and duty of the States *collectively*, will hardly be thought tenable by those accustomed to interpret English, especially when the resolution of 1799, after all but one of the States which responded to Kentucky had declared against the doctrine and its application, combats the idea that Kentucky, "in momentous regulations like the present," was bound to "surrender its opinion to a majority of its sister States." But the fundamental heresy of the whole series, of both years, is the declaration that the United States was not a nation, but a confederation of States, "sovereign and independent," the Federal Government not being even so much as a "party" to the "compact." It has been too much the fashion in the South to speak of the idea of nationality as if it had been a late growth; but whoever will take the trouble to read Mr. Bancroft's 'History of the Constitution' will find how completely Washington and the great movers in the establishment of the present Government were filled with the thought that the aspiration of the people of these United States for a truly national existence was the impulse they were obeying in framing the Constitution, and was the irresistible force which overcame the objections and the jealousies of local politicians. The argument that "we, the people of the United States," not "we, the Thirteen States of America," ordained the Constitution, was as pointedly used by Mr. Murray in this very Legislature of Kentucky in 1798 (quoted by Mr. Durrett), as it was by Daniel Webster more than thirty years afterwards.

—Miss Lucy M. Salmon's 'History of the Appointing Power of the President' (G. P. Putnam's Sons) appears as No. 5 of the Papers of the American Historical Association. It is a clear, orderly, and interesting account of the subject. Miss Salmon has evidently searched well a wide range of authorities. She states the various theories that were entertained by the framers of the Constitution in fixing the appointing power, and gives the early interpretations of the Constitution. At the close of the first debate in Congress "four important conclusions had been reached: 1. That the appointing power includes the removing power; 2. That both belong to the President, the Senate having simply a negative on appointments; 3. Where the tenure of office has not been provided for by the Constitution, the office is held at the pleasure of the appointing power; 4. Heads of departments are not 'inferior officers.'" The practice of the various administrations in exercising the appointing power is stated in an intelligent and interesting way from the beginning, showing the lapse from virtue, the attempts at reform, and the discussions, down to the approval of the Pendleton Act on January 16, 1883. The early administrations, to 1829, are grouped as belonging to the "Merit Period"; the succeeding ones, to 1861, as of the "Spoils Period"; and the 1 test are designated as making up the "Reform Period." After all that has been accomplished, the author points to the Four Years' Limitation Law, a baleful influence ever since its ill-starred enactment in 1820, as something to be repealed; and other fields for reform are indicated by allusions to the narrow scope of the Pendleton Act, applicable to only one-seventh of our civil offices, to the abuses in appointing to consular offices, to the loose practices possible under the head of removals for "offensive partisanship," and to the almost untouched regions of State and local administration. The reformers of the civil service are greatly indebted to Miss Salmon for this excellent contribution of full, well-ordered, well-authenticated, and well-illustrated narrative. On page 23 a striking statement is made as to the number of offices in the Post-office Department from 1789 to 1817. During the first two years of the Government there were only seventy-five. The next year they rose to eighty-nine. In 1800 they were 903. In 1817 they were 3,459. Now, it might be added, they are no fewer than 51,252.

—The *American Law Review* (St. Louis: Review Publishing Co.), with the bi-monthly number of last November, finished its nineteenth volume. It began, as a quarterly, at Boston in October, 1866; three volumes have now appeared since its transfer to St. Louis. It was and is a fact discreditable to the legal profession and the legal publishers of the East that they should have allowed the leading law periodical of the country to pass to the banks of the Mississippi. But thanks are due to those of the West that they maintain it, and with so much credit. It is greatly to be regretted that the *Review* has lost its hold on such a contributor as Mr. Justice Holmes, whose articles formerly gave distinction to the *Review;* such a journal should seek to represent the scholarship of the profession as well as its more common gifts. In the main the present volume compares favorably with the earlier ones. Mr. Wm. M. Meigs's article on the "Relation of the Judiciary to the Constitution" (pp. 175-203) is full of valuable suggestion on a topic which has never yet been so carefully explored as it should be. Mr. Meigs's views have a certain ante-bellum flavor, and they lack that illustration from foreign sources of which one gets a hint in Dicey's recent book; but his thorough and accurate presentation of the early precedents and discussions on the topic in question is the best that we have ever seen; it is very valuable. Mr. Edmund Kelly's article on "The French Law of Evidence" (pp. 380-399) will be found highly instructive by reason of the side-light it throws on our own system. But the most important article in the volume is that of Mr. Glendower Evans on "Jurisdiction in Mandamus in United States Courts" (pp. 505-546), an altogether admirable piece of work, both in method and substance, and one which should be preserved in permanent form. It is devoted to showing that our Federal Courts have fallen into an error in denying that the Circuit Courts (and so the District Courts), in the exercise of their original jurisdiction, can use the writ of mandamus otherwise than as a writ of execution. A careful examination of the cases is conducted with skill in statement, strength of argument, and excellent temper. This is a paper which must command attention in any future discussions of the subject. Two articles by Mr. Edward C. Moore, jr., treat with learning the perplexed topic of the apportionment of dividends between life-tenant and remainder man, a subject which was illuminated some years ago by the wit and sense of Mr. John O. Sargent in his pamphlets on "The Rule in Minot's Case."—Since the foregoing lines were written the tidings come of the sudden death of Mr. Glendower Evans, at Boston, at the untimely age of thirty years. He was a man of excellent gifts of mind and character, and already had begun to justify the high expectations of his friends. In various public affairs he had taken an important and successful part. The death at so early an age of a person so accomplished, able, and public-spirited, is a heavy loss to any community.

—In the introduction to his 'Measures of the Velocity of Light,' recently published in vol. ii of the 'Astronomical Papers prepared for the use of the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac,' Prof. Newcomb gives an admirable review of the work of previous investigators in the same field, beginning with Galileo, to whom it first occurred that light might take a sensible interval to pass from one point to another. He suggested an experimental investigation of the question, in a form which was undertaken by the Florentine Academy, and which failed of detecting the non-instantaneous propagation of light only because its velocity was so great as to elude their rude appliances. Prof. Newcomb points out the fact that the principle on which the method of the Academicians was based is identical with that which underlies one of the most celebrated methods used in recent times for the attainment of the same object, and known to physicists as the toothed-wheel method of Fizeau. Prof. Newcomb's own measures were conducted with apparatus embodying a modification of Foucault's method of the revolving mirror. Nearly twenty years ago, in his classic 'Investigation of the Distance of the Sun,' he pointed out the importance of repeating Foucault's own determination on a much larger scale; but it was not until 1878 that definite steps were taken by bringing the matter before the National Academy of Sciences, through the report of which to the Navy Department Secretary Thompson in 1880 secured a Congressional appropriation of $5,000 to defray the expenses of the experiments. Under the direction of Prof. Newcomb, the complicated apparatus now known as the phototachometer was constructed by the Messrs. Clark, of Cambridgeport, and installed at the military post, Fort Whipple (now Fort Myer), in Virginia, and at a distance of 2,550 metres from the Naval Observatory, on the grounds of which the return-mirror was set up. Finding, after a few months' experience, that the observations might be conducted over a much longer line, the position of the return-mirror was changed to a point near the base of the Washington Monument, and at a distance of 3,720 metres from the apparatus at Fort Myer,

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED.

With this new arrangement the work of actual experiment was concluded in the autumn of 1882, from the discussion of which Prof. Newcomb concludes that the velocity of light *in vacuo* is 299,860 kilometres per second. If we combine this result, according to the well-known relation, with the constant of aberration, 20".492, as determined by the recent labors of Dr. Nyrén at Pulkova, the resulting parallax of the sun is 8".794, corresponding to a distance of practically 93 millions of miles—a value which, if the general drift of results obtained by other methods is to be trusted, cannot be much displaced by any subsequent research.

LONGFELLOW.

Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. With extracts from his journals and correspondence. Edited by Samuel Longfellow. 2 vols. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 1886.

THIS biography is characterized by its good manners. There is no line in it, any more than in his poems, which the poet dying would wish to blot, and this is double good fortune. Those who were his acquaintances need not fear any disillusion as to their place in his real esteem, and those who worshipped him from afar will find no appreciable lessening of the proper heroic distance between themselves and the object of their devotion. At the end, it is as if one had grown familiar with the study at Craigie House, had heard the poet talk of his past and his books with a discreet suppression of names not already public by virtue of their owner's repute, and had listened to extracts from the journals and correspondence, while all the time the doors leading out of the library are kept closed. The editor—and he is indeed only an editor—has adopted that modern substitute for autobiography which consists in a selection and arrangement of papers written by the man himself and connected by the slightest thread of narrative. He says in his preface that this method is one by which "the reader would best learn how a man of letters spends his time and what occupies his thoughts." This plan has been rigidly adhered to, and consequently the work is essentially Longfellow's diary, expanded and illustrated in parts by letters, and exhibits to the public the surface of events and thoughts in the life of a poet, in the literary and social environment of Boston, who was one of the most cultivated members of the group that gave distinction to the period.

The editor himself describes this life as that of a man of letters; and whether or not he meant to distinguish sharply between the phases of Longfellow's career as poet and as scholar, the effect of the mode of biography chosen is to present its subject as a scholar who wrote poetry rather than as a poet primarily and always. In nearly all accounts of men in whose lives the world takes interest there are some salient points, some deeds or works or incidents which have attracted attention to the individual; but in telling the story in detail the biographer often finds difficulty in managing those intervals in which his hero's days did not differ from those of ordinary mortals. It is in such portions that the much lamented "disillusion" usually makes itself known. In Longfellow's case the writing of a series of poems has drawn the curiosity of men toward his personality, and if one would get at the true record of his poetic life, that would be the biography for which men would care most; but that is a very secret matter, and hard both to discover and to disclose. Moods visited him and he wrote; but between these, and filling up the intervals of his poetic life, was a life of letters, and it is this life of which his diary was a transcript. This was easy both to record and to publish. Longfellow himself tells us what he thought of its relative importance in his real history: "How brief this chronicle is, even of my outward life. And of my inner life, not a word. If one were only sure that one's journal would never be seen by any one, and never get into print, how different the case would be! But death picks the locks of all portfolios and throws the contents into the street for the public to scramble after." Waiving all question as to the degree of privacy to which a poet's life is entitled, let us take it at once on this best authority that the diary which is spread before us is not the true record of a poet's soul, but the jottings of what happened to him in the body, the cities he saw, the men and women he met, the scenes of natural beauty and childish festival he witnessed, the society he dined and talked with, the books he read or wrote, and such of his thoughts, sentiments, and moods as he was not unwilling that the public should "scramble after." The letters, both of his own inditing and from others, which supplement the diary, will not affect the matter, since they belong to the same outer region of life.

It has generally been believed that Longfellow's life was, in its human relations and its social and material surroundings, very charming; in these volumes this opinion is sustained by page after page of detail. Whether as host or guest, as son, father, or citizen, as stranger or as bosom friend, the element of urbanity pervaded his character. One finds it only too easy to quote instances in which his refined amiableness gave beauty to trivial or even mean and intrinsically ugly incidents. This social phase of the biography presents our cultivation in the intercourse of life with the greatest perfectness which it has yet found in any literary record; the diary, in this regard, becomes at once an indispensable part of the *memoirs* of manners. So much is true of it in relation to the entire coterie (and it was not a very small band) of which Longfellow was one of the most finished members; but beyond this, some of the individuals whom he habitually mentions gain in agreeableness by what he has to say of them. To take the most notable instance, it is certainly impossible to lay down the volumes without a much pleasanter impression of Charles Sumner's nature than the public has thus far entertained. Longfellow was not blind to the grandiose quality in his friend, but he writes of him so warmly, and displays his attachment in so many ways, and insists so often upon the affectionate, humane, and simple heart of his Herculean orator, that the statuesque memory of the Senator loses something of the chill which has belonged to it; and the glimpses one gets of Sumner during his frequent visits to Craigie House display him in an attractive guise. On the other hand, Sumner's friendship seems to have reacted on Longfellow, to develop in him an interest in politics not natural to him, and to quicken his patriotism and enlarge his life with public sympathies. The vigor and decision of Longfellow's remarks upon the state of the country, the clear and certain tone whenever that conflict of "the North wind against the Southern pestilence" is spoken of, free him from the doubt which has been sometimes indulged, that he secluded himself from the great cause of his day more than befitted a complete man. There is evidence enough in these pages to show how intense and constant was his aversion to the violence of politics, but in spite of that he entered into the spirit of the time, and from an early period had his heart in the right place. That this was in some degree due to his intimacy with Sumner also seems plain; and thus the withdrawal of the veil of privacy from their friendship is a gain to the memory of both.

The social feature in Longfellow's life is, perhaps, the leading trait of this work, and its most immortal part; its charm is to be felt, as the editor justly says, only by the perusal of a multitude of details as they follow day by day in the record of the poet's own hand. Scarcely second to this, however, is his friendship and association with books. From early years his genius was fed from this source; and the fortunate accident of time, which made his graduation at Bowdoin College coincident with a desire on the part of the trustees to found a chair of modern languages, determined his fate as a poet who should lean much on books. The travels and studies which were undertaken to fit himself for the prospective professorship may be said to have controlled his career. He returned with an admirable literary culture, which his later post at Harvard helped to perfect. His reading from that time was in Continental rather than English literature, and his poetry showed its influence. It is true that he derived many poetic impressions directly through the eye in the course of his journeys abroad, but for the most part he obtained them through the foreign romantic poets and the primitive imagination of the northern bards. Had he been in closer contact with poetic motives in life itself, he might have been touched with passion; but as he felt them at second-hand, as it were, he could not lift his mood higher than the region of sentiment in that considerable portion of his work which deals with mediævalism, or with the contemporary picturesqueness which still survives in the ruins of the Gothic past. In those parts of his poetry where the literary influence is less obvious, it is no less potent. He was a poet who was developed by books, and not by experience; even when he draws from life itself, his cunning is bookish. This is the impression already given by his works, and his biography makes it deeper. It is the "man of letters" whose history is given to us. The poetic temperament, nevertheless, is very frequently to be observed. The susceptibility of the organization to slight changes in the surroundings; the restlessness, the weariness, the fret of the spirit; the delight in receiving the impression, and the reluctance to work it over into expression; the joy in the vision that comes at the rare moment, and the shrinking from the labor of the spell that bids it stay forever and be seen of all eyes—these and the other common qualities of temperament which are often as keen in those who have no faculty of language, can be noticed throughout all his long life. Longfellow's personality is revealed in these passages, but this is merely the light and shadow of life's surface; the poetic nature is deeper than that. Probably the point of view under which he is viewed in his own diary is the correct one, as it is the common one among critics. His art, taste, and treatment present the qualities of culture; and the forms of which the theme is immediately from life about him are just those which cause him to be called "the poet of the affections." Outside of home-life, books were his inspiration; in other words, generally he was sustained in the poetic mood by the beauty and virtue of which he read.

Some light is thrown upon Longfellow's methods of composition. He wrote with singular ease; indeed, we recollect no poet of equal rank who is known to have been blessed with like facility. The shorter poems, and particularly the "psalms," as they are half-humorously entitled, came to him without effort, sometimes "by whole stanzas and not by lines," as he says, and they required little correction—usually, it seems, only the strengthening of a phrase, but no complete recasting. Similarly with the long poems, when his subject was once settled on and the work begun, he apparently ran on "trippingly," and was satisfied with the corrected first draft. This shows admirable mastery as well as speed,

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED.

while it suggests that the feelings of the poet were not excited to any great energy. One notes, too, that his subjects for shorter poems were frequently selected and the poems written later; a practice which generally indicates the forcing of a poet's talents. Another characteristic, which is rich in suggestions to an analyzer of literary men, is the habit he exhibits of setting down in his diary striking figures of rhetoric heard in sermons or elsewhere, not for the sake of the thought, but of the form. Sometimes one comes upon a landscape sketched in a few exquisite lines, but such entries do not seem to be notes for future work. On the whole, the young poet will not learn much about the craft from these volumes; so far as anything can be inferred from such slight material, equability marked his poetic life as invariably as it did his social intercourse.

Thus this biography in nowise contradicts or modifies the popular estimate which was long ago arrived at in respect to the poet. It merely sustains and amplifies the opinion that has been so often expressed. We have not been surprised by the gift of the intimate and unguessed record of a noble soul—one of those memories which are shrines of the ideal life; but we have what was to be expected, a full and delightful history of the external aspects of a lettered life in a refined society, as it was led by a man who fulfilled his duties in the varied relations of his sphere in a way that made his days beautiful and his memory a humanizing influence upon all who have any perception of the sources of its charm. Our polite literature gains greatly by this, more than by any work which has been published for some time in this country. Nevertheless these volumes are neither a complete account nor a thorough study of Longfellow's life. They occupy in his works a similar place to Hawthorne's note-books. Autobiography is of necessity an imperfect view of its writer's individuality; it is usually invaluable, it is often agreeable, but it is always insufficient. Other memoirs must supplement this by showing how he seemed to the eyes of others, and the scholar who seeks the genesis of his poems must establish the logical connection between the life and the works. Of his personality we are not likely to know more—one suspects there was really little more to know; but of the quality of his genius, in the light thrown on it by his private life, a good deal is yet to be written.

THE COÖPERATIVE HISTORY OF AMERICA.

Narrative and Critical History of America, edited by Justin Winsor. Vol. II. Spanish explorations and settlements in America from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1886.

WITH the first instalment of this work in our hands, a work long expected with an interest inspired by the success of the coöperative method under the same guidance in the 'Memorial History of Boston,' we naturally review in thought the work done in modern times by other hands upon the history of this continent. It is a high standard that has been set by the labors of Robertson, Humboldt, Prescott, Kohl, Parkman, and Bancroft, and yet the 'Narrative and Critical History of America' must be pronounced in scope and method the greatest contribution that has been made to the literature of our history. Not that it can compete in beauty of artistic workmanship with much that has preceded it: it makes no effort so to do. Though not devoid of literary excellence, it is first and foremost a scientific work, as truly such as is Helmholtz's 'Lehre der Tonempfindungen.' Strange as it may sound to those whose memory goes back to the date of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, its only rival is that valuable and ponderous series now issuing from the laboratory of Hubert Howe Bancroft on the Pacific Slope. One of these books will probably henceforward suggest the other, as the trick of a feature will sometimes recall a totally dissimilar physiognomy. Both owe their origin to the specializing tendency of the present, which makes coöperation first possible, then necessary; and the fact of coöperation, though not the distinguishing feature of Mr. Winsor's work, is the first to attract attention. Here the likeness begins and ends—nay, coöperation even has taken on a different guise in the East and West. The Californian editor, in a land where worth of personality is supposed to be most fully appreciated, carefully, systematically suppresses the individuality of his assistants; Mr. Winsor's plan is based upon a most scrupulous accrediting to each co-worker his every line and word.

If we may not justly adapt to the new history the sentence wherein Sir William Jones defined the work of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and write, "The bounds of its investigation will be the geographical limits of America, and within those limits its inquiries will be extended to whatever is performed by man or produced by nature," we may safely say that in scope it is unapproached. It deals with the two Americas, from the earliest period to which surmise can reach, to the generation that tells the tale. Of the eight stout volumes we are told to expect, those at present published, the second, third, and fourth, relate the discoveries and settlements of the Spanish, English, and French; the later volumes will continue the narrative, while the first will handle the aboriginal history of the continent, as well as the strange, fascinating story of the pre-Columbian discoveries, and that dim—we had almost said telepathic—half-knowledge of the existence of a western world which haunts all the earlier centuries of history. This volume will be among the last to appear, in order that full use may be made of the present study of our native ethnology and archæology, when every year is giving what, before the war, a decade failed to give.

It is not the scheme of authorship—the striving to pick out for each era and topic the one man who knows most about it—it is not its unrivalled scope, that gives this work its enormous and permanent value. The method of construction insisted upon in the felicitous title, '*Narrative and Critical* History of America'; the coupling with each narrative chapter a chapter descriptive at length of the sources of information upon which the narrative was based, and of their comparative value—this is the feature of the book. The nature of the ordinary "history" is well known: the author, having collected his material and selected his point of view, writes his text well or ill according to his kind; to this he appends, perhaps, notes explanatory and otherwise, and references to his authorities, which he quotes by designations often inaccurate and not seldom unintelligible; sometimes, to our rejoicing, he devotes a couple of pages to an account of the authorities, and of his diligence in examining them. Such work grows less common, but a reminiscence of it lends zest to our appreciation of a scientific method. Surely all scholars who like to know the ground whereon they walk, will welcome the application of such a method upon such a scale.

The second volume, which lies before us, deals with the explorations and settlements of the Spaniards from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century. It opens with the voyage of Columbus and closes with that of Magellan. In turning the pages there appears to be about as much critical matter in small type as narrative matter in larger type. Another thing strikes us at the first examination: editorship, as Mr. Winsor understands it, is no child's play. Of the 617 pages in the volumes (exclusive of the index) some 340 are from his pen, and very many of the others bear traces of his care. He has written the chapters upon Columbus and Cortes, and the critical chapter on Vespucci, and about all the cartographical matter. The other writers and their subjects are as follows: Sydney Howard Gay takes Vespucci, and Doctor Edward Channing the other early followers of Columbus; Dr. John G. Shea writes of Ancient Florida, of Ponce de Leon, De Soto, and the tragedy of Fort Caroline; the Rev. George E. Ellis sympathetically recounts the life of Las Casas; Prof. H. W. Haynes, of the Archæological Institute, follows the early explorations of New Mexico; the Conquest of Peru is described by Clements Markham, and the Rev. E. E. Hale lends a new charm to Magellan's voyage. Such a roll of names guarantees thoroughness and care in workmanship, and no one who goes to the book will be insensible of it. As we have already said, history is here treated scientifically, not artistically; the critical part has overbalanced the narrative. The general reader must approach the book with his loins girt up. He will be constantly reminded that the pursuit of truth is no longer compatible with a journey upon that broad and easy way which we all like now and then, despite its dolorous goal. No sooner is he suited to one author than he will be thrown violently out of the saddle by a critical chapter or bibliographical note, and when he has climbed in again it is only to find that he must adapt himself to a different pace. We are not cavilling; we merely wish to explain that this history is not to be read as one of Prescott's is read, and was not meant to be. The literary merit of the separate narratives is overcome by the lack of artistic adjustment pre-ordained in the conception of the plan. To regret this would be, as George Eliot has said, to demand that not this book but another should have been written.

Throughout the volume the object has evidently been to epitomize the results of what has been done before, rather than to enter upon new lines of investigation. Thus the first chapter condenses all that has been written about Columbus down to the latest phase of the discussion regarding his last resting-place, and gives an account of the mingled light and darkness which Harrisse has just thrown upon his history; but the writer has been careful to refrain from deciding doubtful questions, and is conservative in his utterances, though sharing the estimate of Columbus's character which every rebellious reference to the sources renders more probable. In dealing with Vespucci, too, neither Mr. Gay nor the editor throws any new light on the mysterious first voyage, but we are left with the belief that we have all the light there is. An impression of novelty there undoubtedly is in Mr. Shea's article, but we suspect it to lie rather in the point of view than in the facts. His heart is warm towards the Spaniards, and one will hardly recognize, as it comes from his persuasive pen, the story of the vengeance of Dominique de Gourgues which so thrilled us in Mr. Parkman's telling. Dr. Shea corrects a common injustice in pointing out good reasons for believing that the expedition of Ayllon in 1521 along the northern coast to Virginia was very particularly not intended to be a slave voyage.

It was well to devote a chapter to the "Protector of the Indians," for we heartily agree with Dr. Ellis that the dare-deviltry of the conquerors did often bewitch our earlier writers from a proper portrayal of the effect of the conquest upon the natives. Nor is the scientific method of dealing with such matters much better than the Carlylesque. Dr. Dewey wrote (and Dr. Ellis

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

quotes): "History should teach men to estimate character; it should be a teacher of morals, and I think it should teach us to *shudder* at the names of Cortes and Pizarro." If it does not, it is not because it teaches us to look on the sufferings of lower races as on an interesting vivisection, full of valuable results, but because it teaches that one mortal may not venture to shudder at the acts of another mortal.

The account of the exploration of New Mexico and particularly that of the expedition of Coronado in 1539-1541 to the Grand Cañon of the Colorado, the Zuñi pueblos, and the plains of Kansas, will prove one of the most attractive chapters, for the subject has not as yet crept into general literature, and the identification of localities recently achieved adds greatly to its interest. Worthy of note by all who have to deal with tradition is the fact that Mr. Cushing finds to-day, among the store of Zuñi legends, one of the killing of the black Mexican, whom he identifies as the negro who in 1539 preceded Fray Marcos to Cibola. Even more interesting would it be to know the exact tenor of that legend. Dr. Shea observes that in the summer of 1541 the forces of Coronado and De Soto were within a few days' march of one another, and this impresses one anew with the wide range which exploration had reached in that year. It was 1541, too, that saw Orellana float down the Amazon to the Atlantic, and Valdivia invade Chili. On page 503, in the chronology quoted from Duro, Coronado's expedition is inserted once under 1531 and again correctly. A reference to page 500, where the error is explained, would have been in place.

It is difficult to speak of the bibliographical and critical work without seeming too laudatory. Were the book intended for readers only, it might be justly urged that a clear conception of the subject has sometimes been sacrificed to luxuriance of detail, and it may happen that the seeker after a reference will be in doubt where to turn; but as a rule fulness and clearness are both attained. To give an idea of the character of the work we briefly analyze the critical chapter on Cortes and his companions. After a few pages descriptive of the sources which have been made public since Prescott wrote, we come to thirty pages of notes classified thus: A. The letters of Cortes, each described separately with its editions and translations. B. Three contemporary writers (Gomara, Bernal Diaz, Sahagun). C. Other early accounts. D. Native writers. E. Earlier historians (Acosta, etc.). F. Modern historians (Solis, Robertson, Clavigero, Prescott, Wilson). G. Yucatan. H. Bibliography of Mexico. Such detail as this is not always necessary, and no one desiring a guide can go wrong who follows the methods of Mr. Channing, Dr. Shea, or Prof. Haynes.

Cartography plays a very important part in this book. Nowhere else is such a mass of information on the subject brought together. When the series is complete, the work which Dr. Kohl was defrauded of doing for this Government will have been done in a manner which his resources would not have permitted. In this volume there are articles on the earliest maps of the Spanish and Portuguese, on the early cartography of the Gulf of Mexico, on the discovery of the Pacific Coast, tracing the rise and fall of the insularity of Lower California, and the history of the Straits of Anian, and on the Amazon and the mythical Lake Parima. The cartography has also been kept in view by the contributors to an unusual extent.

The volume is bountifully illustrated, and in the best sense of the word, for every one of the nearly three hundred cuts illuminates the text, and not merely exhibits the skill and mental capacity of the artist. In this respect the 'Narrative and Critical History' reminds us of Oncken's 'Allgemeine Geschichte,' although it has no folding-plates, and in facsimiles does not attempt to reproduce paper and external form. The cuts include portraits, signatures, title-pages, etc., and over a hundred maps. Almost all are extracted from ancient books, and their origin is indicated.

In spite of general good make-up, one is sometimes forced to sigh for a paginal date and a less rigid system of headlines. The cuts and maps have been included in the general index, but a chronological list of the maps reproduced is lacking, though it would be of great value. We hope that it is intended to present such a list for the complete work. Nothing is left to be desired in mechanical execution, though the volume is somewhat heavy. The page is pleasant to look upon and easy to read, and the illustrations have that combined clearness and delicacy which does honor to both editor and printers.

RECENT FICTION.

What's Mine's Mine. A Novel. By George MacDonald. Harper's Franklin Square Library.

Mauleverer's Millions. A Yorkshire Romance. By T. Wemyss Reid. Harper's Handy Series.

Fortune's Wheel. A Novel. By Alex. Innes Shand. Harper's Handy Series.

Adam Hepburn's Vow: A Tale of Kirk and Covenant. By Annie S. Swan. Cassell & Co.

Snow-Bound at Eagle's. By Bret Harte. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

"Mr. Macdonald writes with a higher purpose than transient amusement," says the *Athenæum;* yet in some of his novels he has not found it impossible to write with a high purpose and still give a certain portion of transient amusement to his readers. Nor are the two things entirely incompatible; theremay be dull and amusing morality as well as moral and immoral amusement. But morality is one thing and amusement another, and the sooner one finds this out and lays it to heart the better off he will be in any walk of life, and especially if he is given to novel-writing. In 'What's Mine's Mine' Mr. Macdonald has altogether given over being amusing, and if some reader take it up remembering 'Sir Gibbie,' he will in all probability be disappointed. The machinery of the story does not work without a hitch every now and then; the characters are overdrawn for the sake of contrast, and the "higher purpose"—which seems to be the teaching of a pleasant Christian pantheism—is about the only purpose of the book. The final enrichment of the poor laird of Glenruadh, from the oil found on his American possessions, is one of those gratuitous incidents that go far toward spoiling the effect of an example that would otherwise have been meritorious. It has too much of the reward-of-virtue spirit in it, and the laird's nobleness in giving up his land for the sake of establishing his people in Canada is forgotten as soon as sudden wealth enables him to buy it back. Mr. Macdonald is welcome to his use of "factitude" and to such antitheses as "his truth elicited what there was of hers; the true being drew to the surface what there was of true in the being that was not true."

'Mauleverer's Millions' is a novel of quite another sort — one of the constantly increasing number of imitations of 'Called Back.' "A Yorkshire Romance" on the title-page is misleading, for the story is merely sensational. Some ingenuity is expected in these plots, which usually open with the hero and mysterious heroine falling in love at first sight, and Mr. Reid has managed to have more or less of it in the story of Mauleverer's millions. There is the orthodox trial of the heroine for murder, with the usual scene at court. The important evidence which clears her, however, instead of being produced on the last day of the trial, is kept back until after she is convicted, and then produced to secure her pardon. Mr. Reid, one may be sure, wrote his tale with no higher purpose than transient amusement; yet, just as in Mr. Macdonald's novel, there is a minor incident at the very end concerning money. Mauleverer's millions are given up by his heirs because he had made, but never executed, a will leaving them to charitable institutions.

We have not had the ill-fortune in a long while to read so poor a novel as 'Fortune's Wheel,' about which there is absolutely nothing to commend. It is a poor story, poorly told, tediously padded out to an unconscionable length, and filled with a pretentious spirit that is not the least meretricious of its many bad qualities. To one of any depth or sincerity whatever, nothing can well be more exasperating than the false ideas of life and success that are produced by such histories as that of Jack Venable's financial enterprises and Ralph Leslie's easily-acquired fame as a poet, which are as unreal in their way as 'Vivian Grey,' and are only the worse for their air of possibility. It is bad enough for life in every-day England and Scotland to be painted in such untrue colors; but when the trite incident of the captive maiden, rescued from savages by the devoted lover, recalls our dime-novel days—with wild Malays replacing the fiery Apache braves—it is time to protest.

It is not often nowadays that a writer attempts the historical novel. When one sees a first chapter headed "The Travellers," and beginning, "Toward the end of a bleak gray February afternoon, in the year 1638," one is apt to read on, remembering the delight which such an opening once promised. And with an unconscious protest, perhaps, against the realists and their stories of one's next-door neighbors, Smith and Brown, one generally reads on to the end. But we must admit, nevertheless, though we still read Scott and Dumas, that if supply and demand have anything to do with making good novels, historical novels are gone out of fashion. As for 'Adam Hepburn's Vow,' it is a disappointment, for the tale of kirk and covenant there is little more than an uninteresting account of one or two outrages committed by the English dragoons upon field-meetings, with an occasional mention of Claverhouse, Montrose, or Sharp to give the color of the time. There is but little either in the way of plot or incident to awaken the reader's concern. Adam Hepburn dramatically swears never to sheathe his sword until he has destroyed as many dragoons as his wife had years when she was killed by a careless bullet meant for a dog at her feet. The savage pleasure he took in keeping his oath, and his sorrow at Bothwell Bridge because he was taken prisoner while one of the twenty-eight dragoons he had sworn to kill was still alive, make the explanation of his desperate courage to one of his comrades rather amusing. His companion, "though void of any touch of sentiment, stranger as he was to the finer feelings of human nature, felt himself deeply moved."

It is a great relief, after these four English novels, with their thousand or more pages of tedium, exasperation, and disappointment, to take up the Little-Classic volume which contains Bret Harte's latest novelette, 'Snow-Bound at Eagle's.' The story is too good to be told except by the book itself. The grotesque of life in the mountains in the stage-coach days is kept well under control, though the temptation to overdo it must have been strong. Yet Bret Harte does not neglect his opportunities, and the expressive slang of the colonels, captains, and judges, the nonchalance of the "old-timers" when a coach is robbed, as well as the wonderful scenery of the Sierras, all have their due weight in making

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the story pleasant and taking. The unconscious metamorphosis of John Hale from the precise, law-abiding Bostonian to the comical figure presented before his wife after a week's hunt for the highwaymen—when Mrs. Hale objects to his hat, to his trousers being rolled up over his boots, and to the familiar bearing which had been assumed towards him by the colonels and captains—is delicious. As a rule, the slang is of the soil.

WHEELER'S GREEK ACCENT.

Der griechische Nominal-Accent. Von Benjamin I. Wheeler, Dr. Phil. Strassburg: Trübner. 1885.

THE hackneyed quotation from Voltaire—"L'étymologie est une science dans laquelle les voyelles ne sont rien, et les consonnes peu de chose"—indicates very well the general direction that the would-be science had to take to rid itself of merited reproach. First came the consonant system. The main facts concerning the relations of the mutes were discovered and established by the labors of Grimm, Bopp, Curtius, and Schleicher. Then came the next important phase in the development of the science, the elaborate investigation of the history of the vowel system. Here the achievements of Brugmann and his school mark a new epoch. But it soon appeared that neither system could be fruitfully studied without reference to the other. This became very evident in the last decade. The phenomena of palatalization were then subjected to rigorous investigation, and the mutual interdependence of the vowel system and the consonant system was speedily recognized.

But this was not all: the fact of the dependence of both systems upon the Indo-European accentual system was also brought to light. Verner showed that a most important class of "exceptions" to Grimm's law of the permutation of consonants were themselves all conformable to a law conditioned by original differences of accent. Brugmann and Osthoff went further, and showed how these same conditions of accent have affected the coloring of the entire Indo-European vowel system. In the present phase of the discipline of comparative grammar, therefore, nothing could be better calculated to accomplish a real advance in our knowledge of the subject in general than careful and detailed investigations of its several chapters from the point of view of the accent-phenomena. To one of these chapters, accordingly, Dr. Wheeler, formerly a pupil of Osthoff, and now an instructor at Harvard, has addressed himself.

The historical study of the Indo-European system of accent is essentially comparative, and finds its material chiefly in the facts of the Sanskrit, Greek, and Germanic. Among these languages, the Sanskrit holds the first place by virtue of its remarkable conservation of the leading features of the primitive system of word and sentence accent. More or less widely at variance with this system are the facts of the Greek. The accent of the latter is, as the school-books teach, under the domain of the "law of the three syllables." To discover and set forth the precise nature of this "recessive accent," to categorize and find the laws of the Greek divergencies from the historically primitive accent, and to deduce and formulate from the facts of enclisis some of the principles which underlie the Greek sentence-accent—these are the problems here taken in hand.

The author seeks to prove that the *original* phenomena of the recessive accent are due to a pervading phonetic law, whose palpable result was that *a* (not *the*) tone-stress fell on the third or fourth mora from the end of a word, or of a group of words constituting a phonetic word-unit. Wheeler differs essentially from his predecessors in regarding, for example, the accent of πεντεκαίδεκα, not as having jumped in some mysterious way from its original place on the first syllable (for the word means 'ten-*n*-five') to the third, but rather as the secondary and sole surviving one of two coexisting accents, πέντεκαίδεκα. There was a period in the history of the Greek language when two accents often existed in approximate equilibrium in the same word, the one being the original Indo-European accent and the other the secondary accent developed under the specifically Greek law of the three morae: thus, in ἀνεπίθετος, the *a* has the old accent, and the *ε* has the secondary. The secondary ousted the original accent in words or word-groups whose three or four last morae were originally accentless. Interesting survivals of these coexisting accents are seen in groups like ἄνθρωπόντινα, which is phonetically one word.

The principal part of the investigation is devoted to the laws governing the relations of the specifically Greek word-accent to the Indo-European word-accent. These are as follows: 1. Monosyllabic forms, and dissyllabic forms with short ultima, *i. e.*, forms which do not admit a secondary accent, keep the old accent; thus, ποῦς, ποδός. 2. If the old accent was further back than the secondary, only the latter remains. 3. If the old accent was in the same place as the secondary, it remains. 4. Primitive oxytones with dactylic ending become in Greek paroxytone. 5. Where the old accent was nearer the end of the word than the secondary, the result was now in favor of the one and now of the other, for reasons which are sometimes to be found out and sometimes not. The fourth principle is treated with great fulness of detail and illustration—see, for examples, page 62; and appended to it is a new and interesting view of the anastrophe. This the author regards as a real anastrophe, and puts the phrase σοφίας πέρι, for σοφίας περί, in the same category of dactylic endings with μητροκτόνος, for μητροκτονός.

The phenomena of Greek accent are here treated as living realities, and, so far as feasible, with the same spirit and method as is our own mother tongue in the admirable little book of Sweet, noticed in No. 1066 of the *Nation*. On the other hand, the author seems to have made a careful study of the traditions of his subject, if we may judge by his ample quotations from the Alexandrine grammarians. Apropos of the recent discussions of the word in the *Academy*, we note that he prints consistently *disyllabisch*, not *diss-*. His command of material for comparison from the related languages is extensive and his use of it judicious. It is to be regretted that he has not put together the titles of the abundant literature which he cites, as a convenient bibliographical list of the subject. If an American may be permitted to judge his own countryman in such a matter, we should say that the author's German was thoroughly idiomatic, and here and there, if anything, a little too German for perfect lucidity; but then the book is not "parlor philology." The use of the volume for reference is made easy by an ample index of some two thousand entries, and by a good analytical table of contents. Dr. Wheeler has made a solid contribution to science, and his book is a credit to Young America in Germany. We wish him continued success in the studies so auspiciously begun.

The Mexican Guide. By Thomas A. Janvier. With two maps. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1886.

ONE is slightly repelled by the apparent assumption in the title given this book. Perhaps, however, the use of the definite article is a sort of echo from the author's studies in the Spanish of his authorities, where it does not have the exclusive air which English gives it. At any rate, the name is not strictly accurate, since this new 'Guide' is not as complete as some that have gone before it. Mr. Janvier has not left the beaten paths. He has not followed Mr. Conkling to Oaxaca and Guerrero, to Durango and Guadalajara and Guaymas, nor Mr. Bishop to Acapulco and Manzanillo and San Blas. To be sure, he has given all that ninety-nine out of a hundred tourists to Mexico would need, and yet he might have avoided the danger of misleading the one hundredth, who would want more, by adopting a less pretentious title.

Once over this feeling of resenting what seems to be an undue claim of superiority and completeness, there is little but hearty praise to be given to Mr. Janvier's work. He has succeeded in producing a happy combination of Baedeker and Murray, uniting the practical helpfulness of the former with the latter's tendency to supply artistic and historical details. There might seem, at times, to be a little too much of the last, as in the full accounts given of the various religious foundations, yet this is all so new (in English) and so good that it can readily be pardoned in accuracy, in experienced suggestions, in genial and shrewd appreciation of the people and the country, The Mexican Guide,' within the limits noted, seems to us to be almost beyond criticism. Especially pleasant is it to note Mr. Janvier's high estimate of the artistic resources of Mexico, her churches, monuments and scenery, her people, their costumes, and homes. This, of course, was to have been expected at the hands of "Ivory Black." When Mr. Church comes to give us the results of his sketching trips in Mexico, to be added to what Mrs. Foote and Mr. Bishop and, now, Mr. Janvier have written we shall understand more of the picturesque charm which attaches, in so high a degree, to Mexico. One novel and admirable feature of the 'Guide' is the alphabetized list of streets of the city of Mexico, with references to the accompanying map to indicate the region of the city in which each street is to be found. The need of such a thing arises from the senseless custom of changing the name of a street with every block. It is always a cause of wonder to one using the hackney coaches, to see the unhesitating way in which the drivers will dash off with you unerringly to any one of the more than 650 streets (blocks) of the city. We fear that they will lose some custom in consequence of this new list and map.

In the way of suggestion for revision, which Mr. Janvier, in his preface, invites, we have little to offer. It ought, perhaps, to be mentioned that the railway connection between Vera Cruz and Jalapa (p. 70) is by horse-cars; although this may be sufficiently implied in the statement made on page 72, that it takes a full day to cover the sixty miles. Instead of saying (p. 31), "In proportion to its population the city of Mexico has almost as many newspapers as New York," it would be nearer the truth to say that the number is absolutely as great, if reference is had, as it would seem, to daily newspapers. It is not strictly accurate to say that the rate of domestic postage is "ten cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof" (p. 32). That rate is increased to 15, 20, and 25 cents, according to distance. The population of the city of Mexico is confessedly something that no one knows, yet Mr. Janvier in putting it at 300,000 is some 50,000 in excess of the best estimates. Our author does not appear to be fully informed as to the wretched sanitary condition of the city. He speaks, it is true, of the "thoroughly and radically bad system of drainage," and is aware that typhoid fever is one of the surprising pests of a city at an elevation of over 7,000 feet. But if he had seen the report of the Board of Health for 1885 he would

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

have discovered that pulmonary diseases and intestinal diseases carried off, each, five times as many victims as typhoid. In fact, if Vera Cruz deserves to be classed, as it is by Mr. Janvier, among "the most unhealthy cities of the world" (p. 70), Mexico belongs there, too, as its death-rate for 1885 exceeded, if anything, that of Vera Cruz. The frightful mortality in the capital appears to be due to overcrowding, lack of efficient hygienic supervision, a system of drainage which would be a farce if it were not a tragedy, the wretched homes of the poor, and, finally, the diminishing area of the neighboring lakes, according to the principle noted by Darwin, as long ago as his *Beagle* days, that a small swamp seems to be more fatally miasmatic than a large one.

Bird-Ways. By Olive Thorne Miller. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1885. 16mo, pp. 227.

It is evident that the author of this book is an ardent admirer of Michelet, but this in no way detracts from the merit of her work. In part, her studies were made from birds that were guests rather than captives: they were allowed in common the freedom of the large room in which they were kept (the study and bedroom of the author), and at the same time were provided with separate private apartments, their cages. Other birds were made to tell their stories from the trees and boxes. There is a great deal about the ways of birds in this little book. It does not pretend to be scientific, yet all who read its delightful pages will be impressed with its truthfulness—the best of science. The limited number of observations, and the abnormal conditions under which many of them were made, naturally provoke a critical examination of the conclusions reached. Among them, however, the number one would mark as in much need of confirmation is comparatively small. Woven into the text are notes on the various characters, traits, and habits—the joking, mischief, insolence, timidity, curiosity, obstinacy, selfishness, anger, quarrelling, talking, scolding, singing, sneezing, coughing, snoring, fainting, wooing, building, training, marriages, divorces, marriages of convenience, murders, etc.; and they are aptly followed by the chapter, "These Are Your Brothers." For those who interest themselves in Nature and her children the book is filled with entertainment and profit. All who love birds will heartily enjoy it.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Armitt, Annie. In Shallow Waters: A Novel. Harper & Bros. 25 cents.
A Stroll with Keats. Illustrated by Frances Clifford Brown. Boston: Ticknor & Co.
Ayres, A. The Essentials of Elocution. Funk & Wagnalls.
Baynes, Rev. R. Easter Song: A Poem. Illustrated. A. D. F. Randolph & Co. $5.
Blow, Susan E. A Study of Dante. G. P. Putnam's Sons. $1.25.
Boisgobey, F. du. The Matapan Affair. Rand, McNally & Co. 35 cents.
Boyd, Rev. A. K. H. A Characteristic of Modern Life. Five Essays by the Author of 'The Recreations of a Country Parson.' A. D. F. Randolph & Co. 40 cents.
Burnham, B. F., and Celeste, S. The Life of Lives: Being Records of Jesus. 2d ed. Boston: Cleaves, Macdonald & Co.
Code of Nomenclature and Check-List of North American Birds. *American Ornithologists' Union.* $3.
Collins, Mabel. Lord Vandecourt's Daughter: A Novel. Harper's Franklin Square Library. 20 cents.
Conn, Dr. H. W. Evolution of To-Day: The Progress of a Quarter of a Century. G. P. Putnam's Sons. $1.75.
Cooke, Rose Terry. The Sphinx's Children, and Other People's. Boston: Ticknor & Co. $1.50.
Crawford, F. M. A Tale of a Lonely Parish. Macmillan & Co. $1.50.
Davidson, J. T. Forewarned—Forearmed. A. C. Armstrong & Son. $1.50.
Delaborde, H. Gérard Edelinck. Paris: J. Rouam.
Delpit, A. Mademoiselle de Bressier. F. W. Christern.
Dowling, G. T. The Wreckers: A Social Study. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.
Faber, W. F. Thoughts for Thought. Westfield, N. Y.: A. E. Rose.
Flesch, Julia A. *Ashes of Hopes:* A Novel. Funk & Wagnalls. $1.50.
Frey, A. R. William Shakespeare and Alleged Spanish Prototypes. N. Y. Shakspere Society.
Goulbourn, Rev. E. M. Holy Week in Norwich Cathedral: Seven Lectures. E. & J. B. Young.
Gray, Prof. J. C. The Rule Against Perpetuities. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
Grinnell, C. E. The Law of Deceit. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
Hall, A. D. Anselma: or, In Spite of All. Rand, McNally & Co. 35 cents.
Henderson, I. The Prelate: A Novel. Boston: Ticknor & Co.
High, J. L. Treatise on the Law of Receivers. 2d ed. Chicago: Callaghan & Co.
James, H. The Bostonians: A Novel. Macmillan & Co. $2.
Jones, E. R. The Life and Speeches of Joseph Cowen, M. P. London: Sampson Low & Co.
Keltie, J. S. The Statesman's Year-Book. 1886. Macmillan & Co. $3.
Lang, A. Books and Bookmen. George J. Coombes. $2.
Legouvé, E. Soixante ans de Souvenirs. Boston: Schoenhof.
Little, Rev. C. E. *Historical Lights:* Six Thousand Quotations from Standard Histories and Biographies. Funk & Wagnalls. $5.
Lyte, Prof. E. O. Grammar and Composition for Common Schools. D. Appleton & Co. 75 cents.
Luska, Sidney. Mrs. Peixada. Cassell & Co.
Marshall, Emma. No. XIII.; or the Story of the Lost Vestal. Cassell & Co. $1.
Merrill, G. Studies in Comparative Jurisprudence and the Conflict of Laws. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
McCarthy, J. H. Our Sensation Novel. Cassell & Co.; also, Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.
McWhinney, T. M. Reason and Revelation Hand in Hand. Fords, Howard & Hulbert. $1.50.
Michel, A. François Boucher. Paris: J. Rouam.
Morley, J. Diderot and the Encyclopædists. Macmillan & Co. 2 vols. $3.
Packard, Prof. L. R. *Studies in Greek Thought.* Boston: Ginn & Co.
Parker, J. The People's Bible: Discourses upon Holy Scripture. Vol. III. Funk & Wagnalls. $1.50.
Perkins, Mrs. Sarah M. Helen: or, Will She Save Him? Funk & Wagnalls. 75 cents.
Poems of Goethe. Consisting of His Ballads, and Songs, and Miscellaneous Selections. Done into English Verse by William Gibson. Henry Holt & Co. $1.50.
Preston, Rev. T. S. The Watch on Calvary: Meditations on the Seven Last Words of Our Dying Redeemer. Robert Coddington.
Robinson, Edward. Harmony of the Four Gospels in English. Revised ed. M. B. Riddle, D.D. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. $1.50.
Rohé, Prof. G. H. Eczema. Baltimore: Thomas & Evans.

Fine Arts.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

The sixty-first annual exhibition, now open to the public, is one of the least interesting we have ever seen within the walls, being poorly furnished with works of any sort of sustained effort, and about equally indigent in happy impromptus or lucky sketches. The latter, the efforts of the men who make a short leap at a subject and leave it, are the most workmanlike and satisfactory, and, in a discordant show, form exceptional resting-places, where one can at least repose on something definite.

Thus, Walter Shirlaw's "Jealousy," which is simply a dash at the gates of a certain school, and for which Makart worked while Shirlaw was sleeping, has at least the energy of proved effort and recognizable rhetoric. The moody woman biting her fingers is thrown upon the canvas all of a piece, her clothes and crockery are painted by well-tried recipes in broadest touches, and she hits the accent with acceptance for all to whom the accent is not jarring. There is not much truth to nature in Mr. Shirlaw's studio method; a faithful idolater in exile, he carries out his worship of Runic gods most piously the furthest he gets from the seat of his *cultus*. That he can paint a real Munich picture at this distance of time and of geography is a touching and almost a creditable fact; be at least works like a workman among a crowd of painters who work like old maids. David Neal, in a style of painting not absolutely dissimilar, shows a lady between two ages, whose sharp face supports with much courage an undertaker's tray of heavy black feathers, and who stands against a damask curtain. The face is modelled with thoughtful knowledge of forms and a sly feeling for character, while the technic reveals that success in striking a note which seems almost too easy, and looks like some inevitable formula of a cook-book. Near this last picture, Stephen Hills Parker sends from Paris a portrait of not dissimilar technic, a spirited Jewish-looking dowager who runs to black in hair and costume, and whose effigy shows that assured delivery of paint for paint's sake which seems to smack again of Munich, and to show that rule-and-line technic is not for a single school, but for all lands. Professor John Weir has a girl's head, almost in profile, with a captivating, Bernhardt-like versatility of expression; its moods seem to change as you look, and all is well but the harsh, inflexible hair. The cadet brother, Alden Weir, contributes a difficult study of a young woman in shadow, showing that flesh so shaded is not opaque, but dimly luminous; her environment of twilight is sombre and vibrating, and she only needs the gods' best gift of beauty to be impressive and fascinating.

The genre pictures and illustrations are in oppressive abundance, and in many cases show a sad medley of ignorant intentions. One of the more positive and clear-motived is C. Y. Turner's "Queen of Montauk," a desolate, trudging Indian woman in a lonely landscape; the style of modelling is sculptural, harsh, and appropriate, and the picture does not lack force. The same artist's wedding procession from "Miles Standish" is far more tame, the bride and the bull she rides having a perfect fraternity of expression, and the bridegroom being supremely fatuous, while the remote figures are on exactly the same plane of distance as those in the foreground. Robert Koehler's socialistic painting, "The Strike," some twelve feet across, is simply a newspaper illustration, without knowledge of the figure, knowledge of landscape, or other equipment for so ponderous an undertaking. Gilbert Gaul's military picture is no doubt a boon to military men; but subjects of this sort are treated with such incomparable superiority in other lands that we are constrained to refuse admitting this among works of art at all, and to relegate it also to the ranks of pictorial journalism.

One of the best genre pictures is "In the Plaster Shop," by G. R. Barse, jr. The contrast between the chalky populace of the room and the solitary flesh-and-blood spectator is piquant and well defined. This subject is not a novelty, the motive having been well wrought out in a successful Luxembourg canvas and in others, but Mr. Barse has added a live member to the group. Mr. Fitz's "A Moment's Respite," showing an old woman about to peel a dish of apples, is an intelligent and skilful piece of naturalism, a blood-relation of the fine school of Dutch art with similar domestic topic. Hovenden's negro boy, shooting out his tongue in a desperate challenge to his copy-book, is a workmanlike and graphic study. When the same artist elects to illustrate Kingsley's "Harbor Bar," he sadly proves that knowledge of drawing and form does not help one to dignity of sentiment, and that Bastien-Lepage's Joan of Arc does not willingly give away her grace and beauty even to the flattery of imitation.

Beckwith's country nurse with a babe in her arms is one of his least successful works, his bright decision of modelling here giving place to woodenness and indefiniteness; only one hand is fairly shown, which is a heresy in pictures with a single principal figure, and that hand is an infant's, quite a masterpiece of slurred and contemptuous design. Maynard's infant picture, of a resolute and determined little maid in a bee-hive hat, with tumbling blonde hair and light complexion, is a success in fair flesh and positive character, both so hard to get in the soft clay of child portraiture. Dielman's refined head of a young lady in broad black hat and well-sketched black costume we were tempted to mention along with the Munich plaster sketches of Neal and Shirlaw, but reflected that this would do injustice to its elegance and cosmopolitanism; it is of a delicacy that effaces the barriers of the schools, and makes a standard of its own.

The best successes of the season are in the landscapes, and we shall come to these on a future occasion with genuine pleasure.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Henry Holt & Co.,

29 West 23d Street, New York.

JUST PUBLISHED:

THE LIFE OF A PRIG,

BY ONE. 16mo, $1.

"An amusing sketch. . . . The quality of satire is not strained. . . . From his Anglican nursery to his Oxford career, from the university to the experiences of a private tutorship, his evolution is humorously portrayed and with no slight dramatic power."—*London Saturday Review.*

"Smartly imagined and smartly written."—*London Athenæum.*

"Delightful . . . extremely clever."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

BUZ;

Or, The Life and Adventures of a Honey Bee. By Maurice Noel. Handsomely bound. 12mo, $1.

A bit of science honey-coated for children.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

MAINE'S POPULAR GOVERNMENT. 4 essays. 8vo, $2.75.
ZELLER'S OUTLINES OF GREEK PHILOSOPHY. 12mo, $1.75.
FIELD'S FATHER'S TRAGEDY, etc. 3 Poems. $1.75.
COVENTRY'S AFTER HIS KIND. A Romance. $1.
McCLELLAND'S OBLIVION. An Episode. $1.

G. P. Putnam's Sons,

27 and 29 West 23d St., New York.

READY THIS WEEK:

I. THE LIFE AND LETTERS of JOEL BARLOW, Poet, Statesman, and Philosopher, with extracts from his works and some hitherto unpublished poems. By Charles Burr Todd. Octavo, with portrait in steel and facsimile of portion of the manuscript of the 'Hasty Pudding.' Cloth extra, gilt top, $2.50.

"The author of the 'Columbiad' and the 'Hasty Pudding' was a man of might in his day, and will not pass out of literature or history."—*E. C. Stedman.*

Among the great men of the post-Revolutionary age there was one who excelled in at least three departments of human effort—in statesmanship, letters, and philosophy—and whose practical talents were, perhaps, greater than those of any one of his contemporaries. That man was Joel Barlow, the subject of these pages. His verse first gave American poetry a standing abroad, and his prose writings contributed largely to the triumph of republicanism at home. He was the first American cosmopolite, and he was twice in a position to avert from his country a threatened foreign war. He was the godfather of the steamboat and canal, and sponsor with Jefferson of the system of national internal improvements, and to him belongs the first idea of a great national university.

II. SUMMER HAVEN SONGS. By James Herbert Morse. 16mo, cloth extra, $1.25.

III. UNWISE LAWS. A Comprehensive View of the Operation of the Protective Tariff upon Industrial and Commercial Affairs. By Lewis H. Blair. 8vo, cloth, $1.

Questions of the Day. No. 35.

***Putnam's new lists sent on application.

BACK NUMBERS OF HARPER'S, Scribner's, and all other American and European Magazines. T. BERENDSOHN, 86 Fulton St., N. Y.

COMPLETE INDEX TO LITTELL'S Living Age. Number 8 (Pius IX.—Russell, Lord John) now ready and mailed for examination to any address. Prof. ROTH, Philadelphia.

LIFE OF HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

Edited by Rev. Samuel Longfellow. 2 vols., 12mo. With five new steel-engraved portraits and many wood-engravings and facsimiles. In cloth, $6; in half calf, with marbled edges, $11.00; in half morocco, with gilt top and rough edges, $11.00.

"Altogether the most fascinating book that has been published for months. It is full of the most interesting and picturesque and poetic things."—*Boston Record.*

"Indeed, *the* life of the poet; and it will take its place side by side with the standard Boswells of literature. Back of every line one is charmed to note the touch of a hand made mellow by tender memories."—*Philadelphia Press.*

"These volumes tell the story of his life with exquisite taste; they also unfold a panorama of the literary history of America, and are among the rare and monumental books of the present century."—*Boston Traveller.*

THE PRELATE.

By Isaac Henderson. Covers designed by Vedder. 12mo, $1.50.

"The story is dramatic, powerful, irresistible in its interest as a love story alone. The rapid action carries the reader spell-bound in its thrilling interest. 'The Prelate' will doubtless be held as the greatest work of the day in imaginative art."—*Boston Traveller.*

"He exhibits a capacity for individual work not less marked than is shown by Mr. F. Marion Crawford."—*Brooklyn Union.*

THE SPHINX'S CHILDREN.

By Rose Terry Cooke. $1.50.

"In spite of a style which is carefully clear and elegant, in spite of a tone that is wonderfully pure and healthy, what one remembers longest in Rose Terry Cooke's writings is these dialect passages, forgetting for their sake her delectable descriptions of quaint, old-fashioned gardens, pretty girls, odd old maids, and odder old men, and even forgetting the bit of a moral usually concealed in each story. . . . Full of bits that one reads over and over again, enjoying their flavor anew each time."—*Boston Transcript.*

*** *Sold by booksellers. Sent, post-paid, on receipt of price by the publishers,*

TICKNOR & CO.,

BOSTON.

NOW READY.

VOLUME VI. OF THE

Variorum Edition of Shakespeare's Works.

OTHELLO.

Edited by HORACE HOWARD FURNESS.

Royal 8vo, superfine toned paper, extra cloth, gilt top, $4.00.

Those acquainted with the previous volumes of the series will know what a fund of information awaits them in the play now just published. We understand that the text adopted is that of the First Folio, reprinted with the utmost exactitude, the various readings of all other critical editions being recorded in the notes.

The other volumes of this edition already published, are:

ROMEO AND JULIET.
MACBETH.
HAMLET, 2 vols.; and
KING LEAR.

All uniform in binding, size, and price.

*** *For sale by all booksellers, or will be sent, transportation free, upon receipt of price, by*

J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY,

PUBLISHERS,

715 and 717 Market Street, Philadelphia.

1841. Cheaper than Beef. 1841.

A Superior Ham or Piece of Breakfast Bacon.

45TH YEAR OF THE

CELEBRATED DIAMOND HAM,

S. DAVIS, Jr., Cincinnati.

JUST PUBLISHED.

Actors and Actresses of Great Britain and the United States.

From the days of David Garrick to the present time. Edited by BRANDER MATTHEWS and LAURENCE HUTTON. In 5 vols., 12mo, extra cloth, gilt top. Price, per vol., $1.50.

Vol. I.—GARRICK AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES. (Now Ready.)
Vol. II.—KEMBLE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES. (Ready April 30.)

TO BE FOLLOWED BY

Vol. III.—KEAN, BOOTH, &c. Vol. IV.—MACREADY, FORREST, &c. Vol. V.—ACTORS AND ACTRESSES OF THE PRESENT TIME.

Among the contributors will be Mr. Edwin Booth, Mr. Lawrence Barrett, Mr. W. J. Florence, Mr. Harry Edwards, Miss Kate Field, Mr. William Winter, Mr. Joseph N. Ireland, Mr. H. C. Bunner, Miss J. L. Gilder, Mr. W. M. Laffan, Dr. E. B. Martin, Mr. Clinton Stuart, Mr. Henry Norman, Mr. Laurence Hutton, Mr. William Archer, Mr. Robert W. Lowe, Mr. Walter Herries Pollock, Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, Dr. Edward Eggleston, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Austin Dobson, &c., &c., &c.

A Short History of Tapestry.

From the Earliest Times to the End of the 18th Century. By EUGENE MUNTZ. Translated by Miss L. J. DAVIS. Price, $2.00.

By the Author of 'As It Was Written.'

MRS. PEIXADA.

By SIDNEY LUSKA. 1 vol., 16mo. Price, $1.00.

"The story begins with the very first page, and there is no let up till the end is reached. Mr. Luska has the happy faculty of holding his readers' attention through every page of his books. The plot of 'Mrs. Peixada' is most ingeniously worked out, and the end is a great surprise to the reader."

No. XIII; or, The Story of the Lost Vestal.

A tale of the early Christian days. By EMMA MARSHALL. Extra cloth. Price, $1.00.

"Emma Marshall counts her readers by the thousands. Ancient Rome is the scene of the story, and the ancient Romans are the dramatis personæ."

BY FIRE AND SWORD.

A Story of the Huguenots. By THOMAS ARCHER. Extra cloth. Price, $1.00.

ADAM HEPBURN'S VOW.

A Tale of Kirk and Covenant. By ANNIE S. SWAN. 12mo, extra cloth. Price, $1.00.

"The scene of this story is laid during the stirring times of the Scottish Covenanters, and holds the attention of the reader from the first chapter to the end."

By Author of 'The Bar Sinister.'

WITHOUT BLEMISH.

TO-DAY'S PROBLEM.

By MRS. J. H. WALWORTH.

1 vol., 12mo, extra cloth. Price, $1.25.

"The author in this volume deals with a vital subject. While her book has a moral purpose, it is not a dry dissertation, but is full of dramatic action and thrilling incident."

Complete Catalogue of Publications sent free by mail to any address.

CASSELL & COMPANY, Limited,

739 and 741 Broadway, N. Y.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED